dragon

December 1991

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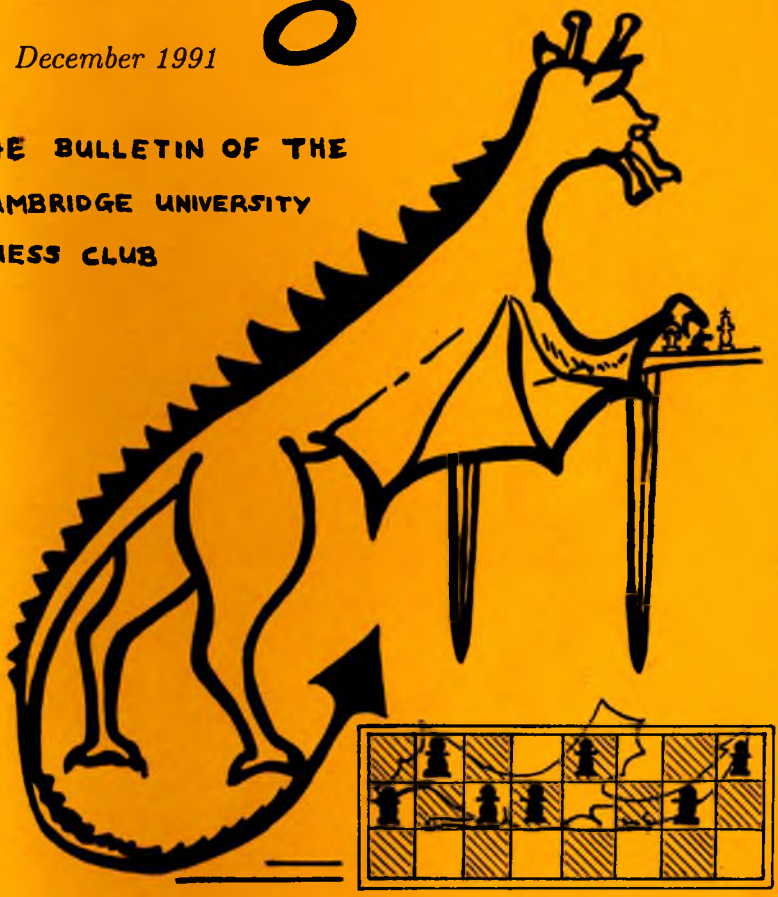

Volume 25 Issue 77 December 1991

Dragon

Contents

1	Contents	
2	Editorial	John Wilson, Steve Rix
3	Presidential Address	Jim Totty
4	A Dictionary Of CUCC	The Editorial Mafia
5	Symbols	
6	Manchester 1991	Steve Rix
8	Tired O' Being Pushed Around	Philip Fallon
11	Totbits VI	Jim Totty
12	Es Gibt Eine Wespe In Meinem Apfel: Internationale Schachtage Baden Baden	John Wilson
15	Schlagen Die Häschen Im Berlin	John Wilson
20	Pooffy Chess Openings	Rajko Vujatović
23	Paignton The Town Red	Steve Rix
24	A Further Mestellany	Jonathan Mestel
26	Romania	Natasha Regan
28	Like Visiting Venice	Graham Burgess
29	What A Con This Is	Graham Burgess
30	My Flexible Friend	David Boyle
32	Orange 1991	Phil Crocker
34	Val Thorens	Jim Totty, Mark Thornton Phil Crocker, Ian Gooding
40	Scandic Cup	Graham Burgess
41	Have You Stopped Paying	Graham Burgess
42	Disreputable Chess Openings	Rajko Vujatović
44	What A Lot Of Barry	John Wilson
45	Advertisement	Doska Chess Supplies
46	My Finger Is Stuck	Rajko Vujatović
48	Gå Væk, Bamseline	Graham Burgess

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Editorial

by John Wilson and Steve Rix

Fasten your seat–belts, extinguish your cigarettes and prepare for another exhilarating ride on that rollercoaster of wit, wisdom and games of chess of variable quality that we call *Dragon*. Santa's little elves have been toiling away in their grotto for two months specially so that we can bring you that special gift to put in your stocking. The magazine that is published so punctually that they check Greenwich Mean Time against its appearances is back, bigger and bouncier than ever.

Steve normally likes us to give you a little resumé of what delights are to be found between the covers, but I'd have thought that that was why we had a contents page. Having said that, I've just looked at the contents page, and failed to find much correlation between the titles and the subject matter of the articles, so maybe I should point out that lots of us have been spending our hols playing in chess tournaments. Some of us have even written a few words about them for your delectation. One consequence of the new-look, cosmopolitan *Dragon* is that fluency in Danish, to say nothing of a smattering of German and Russian, may be of some use in understanding our parochial publication. If you're not sufficiently socially inadequate to want to spend weeks in the University Library poring over dictionaries and back issues, those of us who are have kindly provided you with a dictionary of CUCC.

Last time I had a bit of a rant about people not turning out for the county matches. Not much has changed since then, of course, some people are happy to sacrifice their Saturdays to the greater good and some people aren't. To be fair, we did scrape together enough talent to give Herts a good seeing to, and fully intend to reveal a truly dazzling line–up against Middlesex, but the away matches so far have seen the bottom of the proverbial barrel scraped (apologies to the people who did play, as I'm sure everyone did their best). Latest word from the management is that anyone who thinks he or she might enjoy a sumptuous free dinner at the expense of those lovely Watson, Farley and Williams people, and would be proud to march round Cambridge in an exclusive and very trendy Varsity Match sweatshirt will greatly increase their probability of selection by playing in the county championship. After all, it's not too much to ask of prospective Varsity team members that they demonstrate that they can still remember how a knight moves, is it?

The more observant among you may notice that most of this magazine has been written by extremely old people who already have a degree. Not that this implies any increase in the maturity of the humour, as a lot of it emanates from Rajko, but it must be said that few things would give us more pleasure than a nervous tap at the door, preceding the entry of some eager first–year proudly offering a début *Dragon* article. I know that these graduates have a lot more spare time on their hands, as by and large they appear to be unemployed, but there must be some keen fresher out there with a spark of creativity who could fill a few pages for us. So come on girls and boys, you must have some old games featuring openings you don't play any more which make it look as though you're incredibly strong that you have an irrepressible urge to see in print.

I was just about to confidently predict that we won't see you at the University Championships as we're going to Hastings instead, but the complete chess fetishists reading this will be pleased to hear that they can actually play in both! So you could qualify for the Hastings Premier and the Varsity team in the space of a week, surely a unique feat. I trust that many of you will enter at least one of these prestigious events, but when you plan your holiday don't forget that the winner of the Hastings Challengers certainly doesn't buy all the other competitors a pint afterwards.

May your holiday be spiffing, regardless of whether or not you need it as much as the burnt-out husks of *Dragon* editors do, but don't be too sad if the rest of your Christmas presents aren't as nice as this one.

Lots of sunflower oil,

John and Steve.

Presidential Address

Welcome everyone to the 1991–2 season at CUCC. As usual, we've lined up every kind of tournament, match, and social event under the sun, ranging from staid SCCU and Varsity matches to pint–a–points, strip chess and the prestigious but infamous Annual Dinner.

An especially warm welcome goes to all our new members, both graduate and undergraduate. The club nights on Fridays in Downing are a great opportunity to play friendly and blitz games against players of all standards and to get to know others in the club. We have an AGM at the end of February, when we are always looking to elect lots of freshers on to our 10-strong committee. It's far more important to be a good organiser than a good player, so don't just sit in your room dreaming of CV points, come along, meet us, and get elected! The current committee members will all be hugely flattered if you ask them what their job involves.

Links between CUCC and the Cambridgeshire Chess Association are expanding all the time. Following the shock resignation of Bob Richmond last June, the CCA presidency lay vacant until Steve Foister drew the short straw at the October 14th meeting in Trinity. I wish him well in his onerous duties. CUCC and CCA have now reached a firm agreement whereby we pay 60% of the Cambs affiliation fees in return for the same proportion of the county's BCF membership cards. Apply to me if you want one for 1992.

The BCF have just voted to axe the county levy system as way of financing British Chess. Council overwhelmingly supported a pay–as–you–play system of putting a tax on all graded games of around 20p. What a bunch of fruitcakes. Haven't they learnt anything from the demise of the Poll Tax? At least with the county levies you knew exactly who owed what. Collecting money for every graded game played will be an administrative fiasco, and cost far more to collect than the current system. Seeing as the BCF didn't have the guts to disqualify counties who were behind on their levies, I can hardly see them refusing to grade the games of leagues or tournaments who don't pay up. Perhaps we should play with parking meters instead of clocks. "Put 10p in the slot for an extra 15 minutes on the clock." Pzzzing clunk.

Last year's county team grovelled its way to sixth place in the SCCU first division, thanks to heaps of defaults provided by Surrey, Kent and Middlesex. This year, I want prospective Varsity players to be at all the county matches. Not only do we need strong teams at every fixture, but this is also the only proper match practice available during the season. If we are to continue to fight for our half–blue status, then the top players must make the most of training opportunities provided by county opposition. I'd also like to be able to say that Varsity team places can't be bought for love nor money, but unfortunately they probably can.

Everyone who has played in the University Championships will have met the trophy that goes with the tournament. Made by Munsey & Co in 1880, it is covered with most of the most famous names of British chess. Unfortunately, the solid silver five-pint cup is nearing the end of it's natural because we're running out of room for more winners. The question is what next? Do we just buy a second and bigger plinth, or do we go for a whole new trophy? If so, what do we do with the old one? Answers on a postcard please.

Finally, the presidential palace has moved from H4 New Court to G5 Great Court, Trinity. Tel 68364. During the daytime I can also be found in the Land of the Long Lunch, aka the Cavendish Laboratory. If you have any Vice-Presidential complaints, personal problems, or general queries then please go somewhere else.

Love and peace,

Tots

CUCC Committee 1991-2

President	Jim Totty	Trinity
Publicity Officers	Steve Rix	Trinity
	John Wilson	Trinity
Vice President	Ian Gooding	Downing
Social Secretary	Steve Foister	St. Catz
Match Secretary	Chris Howell	Peterh'se
Club Secretary	Philip Best	Downing
Tournament Sec.	Amit Gupta	Peterh'se
Librarian	Natasha Regan	King's
Senior Treasurer	Dr. N.C.Pyper	Fitz.
Junior Treasurer	Stephen Cook	Trinity

"He's the sort of Admiral I would follow up any hill, anywhere"

— Lieut. Col. Oliver North

A Dictionay Of CUCC

by The Editorial Mafia

rapidly expanding readership, it occurs to me that a brief guide to CUCC might help these outsiders (as well as the new Freshers!) understand some of the "in–jokes" that *Dragon* is supposedly packed to the gunnels with. Here goes:

Best, Philip. Philip Best And His String Vest are currently Club Secretary, which is why Club evenings take place in a God–forsaken "College" like Downing.

Box. The only move. Named after the *Informator* symbol, □.

Burgess, Graham. Achieved a dodgy IM norm at Val Thorens 1988, where he came joint first. Grahame (it mutates) graduated from Downing the following summer, and has been a chess pro ever since. Currently residing in Svendborg (Denmark) where he is a club professional, Grāhām's first book for a UK publisher, *The Complete Alekhine*, is due to be published by Batsford in February. The big G edited *Dragon* in his second and third years.

Callan, Gary. Our first ever Club Secretary, Gary "Gazza" Callan achieved immortality by introducing *Dragon* readers to the terms "Plan 1" (Bxf7+) and "Plan 2" (Bxh6)†. Seemed to work for him, at the June Hitchin Congress, where he won the Minor Section.

Cooper, Andrew. "Korna" made such an impact in his first few weeks in Cambridge (e.g. "I may not be very good at openings, but I pride myself on winning my endgames") that "Koopa's Korna", dating from January 1972, was immediately revived as a forum for publishing large numbers of his losses in *Dragon* (*,† etc.). Koopa has 3/3 against the current *Dragon* editors, which may account for his continuing "popularity."

Crocker, Phil. Overcoming his dubious and much flaunted Northern roots, Phil rose via Publicity Officer to become CUCC President in 1990–1. Fil earned himself a place in the 1991 Varsity team by winning the University Championships.*

Dragon The organ that you are currently reading has been in existence for over thirty years, emerging at the rate of roughly one issue per term. Lots of jolly famous people have written for *Dragon*, including four English GMs. William Hartston edited the magazine during his stint at Jesus.

Foister, Steve A. M. Also known as Sam on account of his initials (two of which are rumoured to stand for "Any Moves"), Steve graduated from St. Catharine's in 1991 and is studying for a PhD in Materials Science whilst serving time as Social Secretary.

Freddie The pawns that start the game on f2 and f7 are both known as **Freddie**. As has been said in *Dragon*, "pushing Freddie" is much more invigorating than "effecting the advance of one's King's Bishop's Pawn." The great man's colleagues include Gordon the g–pawn and Erik the e–pawn.

Gooding, Ian. Once described in *Dragon* as "the star Downing player", Ian makes up in keenness for what he lacks in tactical acumen over the board. *(See also Pudding)*

Howell, Chris. After achieving notoriety by "winning" a Pint–A–Point tournament in which no–one remembers seeing him touch a drop, Kris Hov originated the term "Plan" *(qv)*. Kris has spent the last four terms sharing rooms in Patzerhouse with Andrew Cooper *(qv)*.

N / TN. (Theoretical) Novelty. Not necessarily a good one, of course!

Plan. To be announced in a five–minute game when a gratuitously unsubtle cheapo has been set.

Pudding, Yorkshire. One of the stars of John Wilson's ill–fated *Viz*–style cartoons which never made it into the June 1990 *Dragon*. As well as Ian Gooding And His Yorkshire Pudding, the concept included David Craggs And His Plastic Bags, and Barney Pell And His Sea Shell/Hair Gel.

Regan, Natasha. One of England's finest lady players, Tash lead King's from Division 3 of the College League to Div 1 and back down again. Played 116 gradable games last season, including a dodgy WIM result at

Hastings 1990–1. Tash sought to scotch rumours that she was a theory hacker by becoming CUCC Librarian at the last AGM. Peter Wells is 26.

Rix, Steve. After failing to be elected President in 1990, Steve grew a beard in a huff, and settled down to the serious business of editing the world's best chess magazine and writing "Koopa's Korna" articles. *Sex Invert* (anag; 6,3) has had the unusual distinction of playing in losing Trinity I teams in the last three Cuppers finals.

Thornton, Mark. Has an unusual middle name, leading to very unfunny puns like "always a Hardman to beat". Rather than solving one of Jonathan Mestel's puzzles from the last *Dragon*†, Mark composed a new study instead, which we aren't allowed to publish yet. Graduating from Emma in 1988, Mark emigrated to Oxford for two years before returning last year to do a PhD at Darwin.

Totty, Jim. After embezzling Club funds for a year when Junior Treasurer, Jim successfully stood for President at the last AGM. Author of the "Totbits" sagas in *Dragon* (well, some of them anyway!(*)), Jim claims that his Presidential grade should be much higher than 134.

Ulybin. Any annotation of the type "Extra Pawn," "Extra rook," "Extra Time," etc. Named after Misha Ulybin, and dating from the Prestwich 1990 tournament (*Dragon*, June 1990).

Vujatović, Rajko. The mad Yugoslav, author of a cryptically entitled *Dragon* article "M lt pl rg sms n th ce l ng", Rajko learns openings to move thirty at least. Graduated in 1991, and achieved an Elo rating soon afterwards at the Lloyds Bank Masters.

Watkin–Jones, Adam. Hailing from the valleys, "Boyo" has a curious habit of resigning at move 17† for no readily discernable reason.

Webster, Peter A. N. Club President in 1988–9, Peter was the last person to bring the Pugh Cup back to Cambridge from a Varsity match, after helping us win in 1989. Peter's Presidential career was trademarked by a series of length text–only articles for *Dragon*, one of which the editors refused to publish.

Wilson, John. Leading the Trinity assault on the College League title, John can easily be recognised by the brightly–coloured clothes he habitually wears. John would like it to be known that he owns neither a Chessbase™, nor *Informators* 42–51.

* See *Dragon*, February 1991.
† See *Dragon*, June 1991.

Symbols

The following symbols may be encountered on subsequent pages:

+=	—	White has a slight advantage	=+	—	Black has a slight advantage
±	—	White has a clear advantage	∓	—	Black has a clear advantage
+−	—	White has a winning advantage	−+	—	Black has a winning advantage
=	—	The game is level	∞	—	The position is unclear
!!	—	Very good move	!	—	Good move
!?	—	Interesting	?!	—	Dubious move
?	—	Bad move	??	—	Very bad move
□	—	The only move	△	—	Intending
⊙	—	Zugzwang	⊕	—	Time trouble
>	—	Greater number of pawns	○	—	Development advantage
⌀	—	Adventurous move	♀	—	Unadventuous move
⩲	—	With compensation			

Manchester Autumn Congress 1991

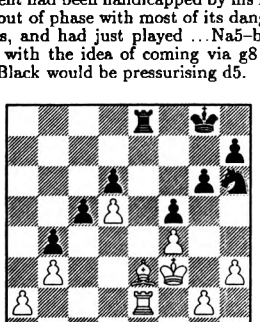
by Steve Rix

The Manchester Congresses are named after the four seasons of the year, but only the Summer and Autumn events warrant mass CUCC raids, being held sufficiently close to Manchester and conveniently out of term. But this year, Graduation Day clashed with the Summer Congress, so only John Wilson and Sarah Young took part.

The Autumn Congress, held at the end of September, was at a comparatively convenient time (despite clashing with the Ryder Cup), and five recent–past or present CUCC members took part. There was a Rix in the Open as well as a Crocker (celebrating the end of his Accountancy mocks), plus a surprise entry from a Fallon who revealed the presence of grandparents in the region. Ian Gooding ventured up from Cambridge to take his place in the Major, an Under 156 event. Which is very convenient if you happen to be graded 155, so Churchill Fresher David Boyle entered with reasonable hopes of winning some dosh (he scored 4/5 in the section last year).

I managed to produce my best result of the summer. In the first round, the seeding system gave me a 210, who gave me enough pawns in the opening to be grateful for a repetition of position, which I obligingly claimed. I could have played on, but I was tired and he had counterplay as well as a big grade.

Much random manœuvring in my Round 2 game turned a Modern Benoni (an unusual reply to 1 e4) into the diagram position. My opponent had been handicapped by his knight being out of phase with most of its dangerous squares, and had just played ...Na5–b7–d8–f7–h6, with the idea of coming via g8 to f6, when Black would be pressurising d5.



34 ♗f2 ♔f7 35 ♖xe8 ♔xe8 36 ♔e3 ♘g8 37 ♗h4

Now during the game and *post mortem*, I analysed 37...Ne7 38 Bxe7 Kxe7 39 Kd3 Kd7 40 Kc4 Kc7 41 Kb5 Kb7 and thought it was only a temporary blockade, as Black can be locked in a Volkswagen after 42 g3 h6 43 g4??, e.g. 43...h5 44 gh gh 45 h4 Kc7 46 Ka6, or mated if he tries 43...fg 44 hg h5 45 f5 gf 46 gf h4?? 47 f6 h3 48 f7 h2 49 f8=Q h1=Q 50 Qf7+ Kb8 51 Kb6. Imagine my distress on then discovering 46...Kc7, when the black king catches the f–pawn! It seems 37...Ne7 draws, then.

If Black refuses to play ...Ne7 at all, then White plays Ke3–d3–c4–b5 and Bg5 to trap the knight, reaching a different zugzwang.

My opponent was at this stage in acute time trouble, and lost limply after:

37...♔d7? 38 ♔d3 ♘e7 39 ♗xe7 ♔xe7 40 ♔c4 ♔d7 41 ♔b5 ♔c7 42 ♔a6 h6 43 h4 1–0

In Round 3, I drew with a 203 who mishandled an Exchange Alekhine. I managed to drop a pawn in reaching an endgame, but had enough piece play to win it back. My next game was a very random affair, against an opponent who thought for ages over moves that simply demanded to be refuted. He kept my sacrificed pawn. I failed to find anything clear and managed to avoid playing a drawing line in a R+P ending. The last round gave me another Exchange Alekhine, against an opponent sufficiently inept to lose his d–pawn early on and then a second one while seeking counterplay. I solved the technical problems posed by opposite coloured bishops by blundering my one, but my opponent obviously sympathised with me because he walked into a rook fork five moves later to restore my two pawn advantage. 3/5 may not sound too good, but four of my opponents were graded over 185.

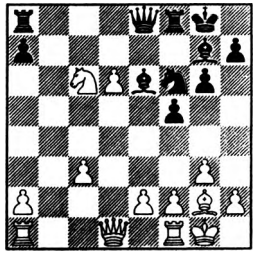
Of the others, Phil Fallon has kindly reported his adventures elsewhere in this issue. Our Major entrants had mixed fortunes. David Boyle won his first two, but lost in Rounds 3 & 4 to end up on 3/5. Ian Gooding clearly needs to heed advice in *Dragon*, as, after winning his first game with the aid of the French Defence and a black umbrella, he deliberately left his rain–deflection apparatus at home on the Saturday on the feable grounds that "it wasn't raining". Two losses duly followed. The sky was more overcast on Sunday, Ian and his umbrella were reunited at the chess board, and our Vice President added a draw and a win to his tally to reach 50%. I

don't think that the reader needs a Diploma In Mathematical Statistics to draw the obvious conclusion.

Phil Crocker seemed out of practice, but reached 1½/2 before losing his next two games. But he enjoyed himself in the last round:

□ **S. Foulkes (165)**
■ **P. Crocker (181 — well 'ard)**
St. Petersburg Dutch

1 ♘f3
[It gets better.]
1...f5 2 d4 ♘f6
[This game features several clever tactical ideas.]
3 c4 g6 4 ♘c3 ♗g7 5 g3 0–0 6 ♗g2 d6
[It also features an inexplicably large number of one–move blunders.]
7 0–0 ♕e8?
[37 Nf2 has refuted the King's Indian. This variation of the Leningrad Dutch allows Black to play all the 'ardest and most un–Rixian moves (...f5, ...Qe8, and ...Na6) within the first eight moves.
The drawback is that Black then has no constructive ideas for the rest of the game.]
8 d5 ♘a6 9 ♗e3!?
[TN maybe. I must confess I've only played the Dutch once and know very little theory on it. Maybe John or the socially–inadequate Mond hack could pour some suitably destructive criticism on the next few moves.]
9...c6
[9...c5 might be playable, but I now prefer 9...h6 △ ...g5, Qh5 and general king-side "space gaining".]
10 ♗d4 ♘c7?!
[This gives Black the option of ...Na6, but 10...Bd7, 10...c5 et al. look better.]
11 dc bc 12 c5 e5
[Black's position compares unfavourably with two large tins of sauerkraut.]
13 cd ed 14 ♘xd4 ♘cd5 15 ♘xc6 ♘xc3
[15...Qxc6? 16 Nxd5.]
16 bc ♗e6



[Offers more of a tactical mess than 16...Ne4.]
17 ♘e7+ ♔f7
[17...Kh8 would be chosen by the sane, the boring and the strong.]
18 ♗c6
[18 Bxa8 Qxa8 gives Black good play against White's queen-side pawns, with the odd mating idea on g2.]
18...♕d8 19 ♖b1 ♖b8 20 ♗b7 ♕d7
[Here a large alsatian did not eat my black umbrella.]
21 ♘c6
[21 Bc6 Qd8 22 Bb7 draws by repetition.]
21...♕xb7 22 ♖xb7
[22 Nxb8 wins more material.]
22...♖xb7 23 ♕a4 ♘e4
[Black's pieces co-ordinate well against the queen. White's generous donation of a few tempi also helps.]
24 ♕a6 ♖d7 25 ♖d1 ♘xc3 26 ♖d2 ♘e4 27 ♖c2 ♖e8 28 f4 ♖xd6 29 ♕xa7+ ♖d7 30 ♕b6 ♖d1+ 31 ♔g2 ♗d5 32 ♔h3 ♖f1
[△ ...Nf2+; Kh4 Bf6#.]
33 e3 ♘f2+ 34 ♖xf2 ♖xf2 35 e4 fe 36 ♕a7+
[36 Qxf2 Bxc6 should win fairly easily for Black.]
36...♔f8??
[36...Kg8 37 Ne7+ Rxe7 38 Qxe7 Rd2 –+.]
37 ♕c5+ ♔g8 38 ♕xd5+ ♔h8 39 ♘d8
[My opponent had obviously read Gazza's *Plan Like A Grandmaster*.]
39...h6 40 ♕d7 ♖g8 41 ♘f7+ ♔h7 42 ♕e7
[Not sure if this one has a number.]
42...♖xa2 43 ♕xe4
[43 Nxh6!?]
43...♖a5
[44 f5 was a threat.]
44 ♕e7 ♖h5+ 45 ♔g2 ♖b8 46 h4 ♖d5 47 ♘e5
[47 Nd6!? △ Ne8, Qxg7#, e.g. 47 Nd6 Rb2+ 48 Kh3 Rdd2 49 Ne8 Rh2+ 50 Kg4 h5+ –+]
47...♖b2+ 48 ♔f3 ♖b3+ 49 ♔e4 ♖a5
[Despite a large time advantage, White now self–destructs.]
50 g4 ♖a4+ 51 ♔d5 ♖xf4 52 ♕d7 ♖b1 53 ♔e6
[53 Kc6 Rbb4 –+]
53...♖e1+ 54 ♕c7 ♖xe5+ 55 ♔d6 ♖d4+ 56 ♔c6 ♖c4+ 0–1

Tired O' Being Pushed Around

by Philip Fallon

After turning in a satisfying 190 performance in the East Anglian Open this Easter, my chess playing activities were shelved "due to other commitments", and left to stagnate until the summer.

Once back home, I resumed touring the Oxford clubs to play blitz games, and even played a couple of postal games with a friend from college, but my yearning for serious chess returned, and in late September I made the long trek "up North" to play in the Manchester Open.

However my lack of practice soon became apparent — I got blown apart in round 1 inside 30 moves, overpressed in round 2 only to reach a lost ending (and lost it), and in round 3 got my pieces totally knotted up on the back ranks, and again lost in 30 moves. What was particularly sickening was that my opponent had never even played the White side of the English before. "I just fancied a change", he told me!

This bad luck probably sounds familiar to all chess players — however, things had gone too far, and I decided enough was enough. After all, this was the first time I had lost four serious games in a row (this includes the last round of the East Anglian Open) in over five years!

Needless to say, I felt I still had something to prove ...

□ **P. Fallon (172)**
■ **R. van Kemenade (171)**
King's Gambit
1 e4 e5 2 f4

When the game was over, we went into the analysis room and my opponent turned to me and said, "I knew you would play the King's Gambit as soon as I saw you"! I was astonished — I hadn't played it in an earlier round, so how could he guess? If I hadn't won, I would probably have objected about being paired with a psychic.

2...ef 3 ♘f3 d6

The Fischer Defence – this move, along with ...g5, constitutes the most serious theoretical test of the gambit, by trying to take and hold the pawn. White in return obtains a strong centre, rapid development and the initiative.

4 d4 g5 5 h4 g4 6 ♘g1

An apparently unenviable retreat, but 6 Ng5 f6! loses a piece. White's last two moves have undermined Black's f-pawn.

6...♕f6

All the kiddie books criticize the early development of the queen, due to the fact that the opponent is bound to gain time by threatening her, and this game was no exception (despite 6...Qf6 being theory).

7 ♘c3 c6

To prevent Nd5.

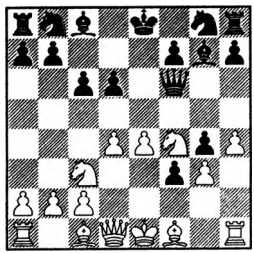
8 ♘ge2

Many books recommend 8 e5!? de 9 Ne4 Qe7 10 de Qxe5 11 Qe2, as if 11...Bg7 12 Nd6+ Kf8 13 Bxf4!, or 11...Nd7 12 Bd2 "with strong threats". However, my opponent reliably informed me that 11...Be6! refutes the attack. I don't actually know why, but it probably has something to do with 12 Bd2 Qxb2 13 Bc3 Bb4!? when all nasty checks on the e-file have been avoided.

8...♗h6 9 g3 f3

Black chooses to block the kingside and obtain a protected passed pawn, rather than open it up with the equally playable 9...fg. The minus side of 9...f3 is that White's king will be relatively safe on f2, and Black's kingside majority is blockaded, unlike White's mobile centre which will (hopefully!) execute a well-timed advance to expose Black's king.

10 ♘f4 ♗g7!? N

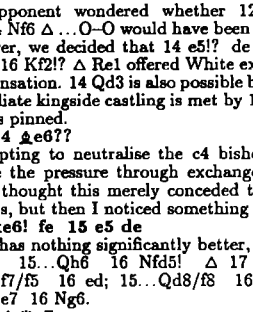


A new move in this position as far as I can tell. 10...Bxf4?!, 10...b5, 10...Qe7 and 10...Ne7? (yes!) have all been played, generally without success in the games I've seen. The wide variety of moves played would suggest that there is in fact no obvious plan for Black to meet White's intention to develop and open the position with the e5 break.

11 ♗e3 h5

This avoids Nh5 and consolidates the black kingside pawn chain, but with this and his next move, Black falls far behind in development.

12 a4!?
A move suggested by BCO2 in a similar position — it prevents Black gaining space on the queenside with ...b5, which would also gain a tempo on my bishop when it reaches c4, and threaten to undermine the e-pawn by advancing to b4.
12...a5
Probably not best, as I was not threatening a5 (unless Black takes it into his head to castle queenside). Although it fixes an outpost for the knight on b4, it takes time to get there, and even here it will not defend the king. Clear improvements are not easy to suggest: 12...Ne7 *(12...Nh6 13 Nxh5)* cuts off the queen's retreat after 13 e5! de 14 Ne4!
My opponent wondered whether 12...Qe7 13 Bc4 Nf6 Δ ...0–0 would have been better. However, we decided that 14 e5!? de 15 de Qxe5 16 Kf2!? Δ Re1 offered White excellent compensation. 14 Qd3 is also possible because immediate kingside castling is met by 15 Ng6! as f7 is pinned.
13 ♗c4 ♗e6??
Attempting to neutralise the c4 bishop and release the pressure through exchanges. At first I thought this merely conceded the two bishops, but then I noticed something better.
14 ♗xe6! fe 15 e5 de
Black has nothing significantly better, for example: 15...Qh6 16 Nfd5! Δ 17 Nc7+; 15...Qf7/f5 16 ed; 15...Qd8/f8 16 Nxe6; 15...Qe7 16 Ng6.
16 ♘e4 ♕e7



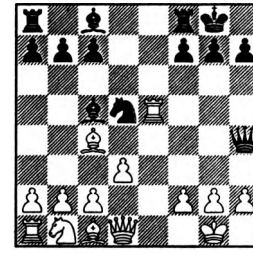
Again 16...Qf5/f7 17 Nd6+; 16...Qf8 17 Ng6; 16...Qd8!? 17 Nxe6 Qe7 18 Nxg7 Qxg7 19 Nd6+ Δ de, Kf2.
After 16...Qh6, I had intended 17 Nd5 Qg6 18 Nc7+, as if 18...Kf8/e7 *(18...Kf7 19 Ng5+ & Nxa8)* 19 Qd3 defends e4 and prepares to win the rook, or 18...Kd7/d8 19 de+ Kxc7 *(19...Nd7 20 Nc5)* 20 Qd6+ Kc8 21 0–0–0 with a promising attack.
However, analysis has shown that Black can play *16...Qg6 17 Nd5* cd (or ...ed!?) in this line, sacrificing the queen via 18 Bxh6 Nxh6 for good compensation. Black can follow up with ...Nf5 when White seems to lose the g3-pawn, giving Black a big centre and two powerful passed pawns on the king-side. The main problem in this line is the absense of any open files for White's rooks to operate on.
As a result, I think White would do better to play 17 Nd6+ instead. If 17...Ke7 or 17...Kf8 *(17...Kd8 18 Nf7+; 17...Kd7 18 de Δ Nf5/f7 winning the queen)* 18 de Bxe5 19 Nc4 *(19 Bc5 offers less after 19...Kf6 or Kg7)* 19...Bc7 *(else Qd6+)* 20 Qd3, followed by 21 Ng6+ threats or simply Kf2 or 0–0–0 centralising the rook, with a continuing attack for the sacrificed material.
Both these last two lines offer White excellent compensation, as Black's king is under fire, although they are probably still quite playable. Had my opponent not overlooked my finesse of move order at move 18, he may well have preferred one of these. The line 16...Qxf4!? 17 Bxf4 ef with compensation as suggested by my opponent is somewhat flawed by 17 gf.
17 ♘g6 ♕c7
17...Qb4+ may look good, but after 18 c3 it's not big and it's not clever. If the queen takes on b2 now, 19 Nd6+! Kd7/8 20 de Δ 21 Nc4+ is pretty hard to meet.
18 de!!
This is what my opponent had missed: he was expecting 18 Nxh8 Bxh8 19 de *(19 Kf2 is probably just as good)* Bxe5, preventing Nd6+ and with counter threats against g3 and b2.
18...♗xe5
Attempts to save the rook by 18...Rh6/7 are punished: 19 Nd6+ Kd8 *(19...Kd7 20 Nb5+)* 20 Bb6!! (20 Nb5+? Qd7) Qxb6 21 Nc4+.
19 ♘xh8 ♗xh8
This is superior to both 19...Bxg3+ 20 Kf1 and 19...Bxb2 20 Nd6+ Ke7 *(20...Kd7 21 Nb5+; 20...Kf8 21 Ng6+ Kg7 22 Ne8+; 20...Kd8 21 Nf7+ [not 21 Bb6? Qxb6 22 Nc4+ Qd4] 21...Ke7 [21...Kd7 22 Nb5+] 22 Bc5 winning)* 21 Ng6+ Kd8 22 Nb5+! Qd7 23 Bb6+ Δ 24 Nd6+ winning the queen.
20 ♘d6+ ♔f8
20...Kd7 loses in familiar fashion to Nb5+.
20...Ke7 21 Bc5! and if 21...Kf6 to avoid a discovered check winning the queen, 22 Ne8+ forks her anyway.
20...Kd8 holds against both 21 Nf7+ Nd7 22 Nxh8 Qxg3+! ∞ and 21 Bb6 Qxb6 22 Nc4+ Qd4 23 Qxd4 Bxd4 24 0–0–0 c5 25 c3 Nc6 26 cd Nxd4. Hence White's most promising plan (in the absense of a direct refutation of 20...Kd8) is to play 21 Qd3, intending primarily 22 Rd1 (or 22 0–0–0) bringing

more pressure to bear on Black's king, which is trapped on the d–file by the huge d6 knight.
21 ♗c5 ♘e7□ 22 ♕d2
My queen now enters the fray — the difference is that mine is hunting rather than hunted, her prey being Black's king. Already this modest move threatens 23 Qf4+ Kg7 *(23...Nf5 24 Nxf5+)* 24 Qf7+ Kh6 25 Be3#
22...♔g8
22...Bf6 23 Qh6+ Bg7 *(23...Kg8 24 Qxf6)* 24 Qxg7+! Kxg7 25 Ne8+ wins easily. 22...Nd7 is tougher, as 23 Qf4+ is met by 23...N/Bf6 defending. However, 23 Qh6+ Bg7 *(23...Kg8 24 Qxe6+ mates)* 24 Qxe6 Ne5 □ (avoiding Qf7 mate) 25 Nf5!? leaves Black in a right mess.
23 Qg5+ 1–0
Why? 23...Kf8 24 Qf4+ and 23...Kh7 24 Qxh5+ both get mated, while the intended 23...Bg7 allows 24 Qxg7+! Kxg7 25 Ne8+ cleaning up.

Well, I felt greatly relieved at having finally chalked up a point for the scoreboard. However, I did feel rather sorry for my opponent's predicament of still being on zero after four rounds. Amazingly enough, when I expressed my sympathy afterwards, he didn't seem to mind at all: "Happened to me a couple of tournaments ago," he remarked. "Didn't get a thing all tournament, yet I played some really good chess."

Oh well, as long as he was happy I could live with it. My lust for blood was still far from satisfied, but the King's Gambit theme to my articles is now interrupted as my next round opponent quite blatantly spurns the chance to unleash the venerable opening. However, my repertoire contains more than one dodgy gambit ...

□ **A. P. Spice (175)**
■ **P. Fallon**
Young's Gambit
1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♗c4 ♘f6 4 d3 d5!?
The sharpest attempt to cut across White's intention of playing solidly and gradually crushing Black after 4...Bc5 5 c3.
5 ed ♘xd5 6 O–O
Following the recommended plan of rapidly putting pressure on Black's e–pawn. Attempts to defend it get Black into all sorts of trouble, as illustrated in last issue's article on the gambit. My first effort on the Black side occurred in 1987, when, having just bought John Walker's *Chess Openings for Juniors*, I decided to follow his recommendation of 4...d5 in a five minute game against Jim Stayt. As the book only analysed 6 Qe2, I was already on my own. The game continued (6 O-O) Nb6 7 Bb3 Bd6 8 Ng5! O-O 9 Qh5 h6 10 Nxf7 and 1–0 pretty quickly.
6...♗c5!? 7 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 8 ♖e1 O–O 9 ♖xe5 ♕h4



Not 9...Qf6? 10 d4. A position closely related to the Marshall Gambit in the Ruy Lopez has now arisen. Most people's reaction is one of astonishment: "How can Black afford to lose a piece just for a check?" When I got the chance to play this against Jon Speelman in a simul, he looked at me to check I was serious, looked again, shook his head saying, "I don't believe it", and took the piece.
So far everyone has worked out that 10 Rxd5 loses to 10...Qxf2+ 11 Kh1 Bg4!!, but in spite of the existence of perfectly reasonable alternatives, not a single player has reached this position and been able to resist ...
10 ♗xd5
And why not? Sadly, against Speelman I now screwed up by confusing my lines and playing 10...Qxf2+?, forgetting that 11 Kh1 Bg4 can be met by 12 Qe1!, and after 12...Qxc2 it ended 1–0, 33.
10...♗xf2+! 11 ♔h1??
From the game continuation it becomes clear that the unnatural 11 Kf1 is necessary.
11...♗g4
This is essential, as the immediate 11...Bg3 allows either 12 Q or Rh5.
12 ♗f3
Both 12 Qf1/d2 lose the rook to 12...Bg3; 12 Bg5 as played in one game achieves little after 12...Qh5 13 Bf4 Bxd1 14 Rxh5 Bxh5 (0–1, 40). 12 Re2 is possible, but 12...Bxe2 13 Qxe2 Rae8 14 Be4 f5 should win.
12...♗g3 13 h3 ♗xf3 14 ♕xf3 ♗xe5 15 ♘d2 ♖fe8 16 ♘f1 ♕e1!
Tightening the vice on White's position, such that it is now impossible for him to complete his development.
17 c3 ♗d6 18 d4 ♖e6! 19 b3 ♖f6 0–1
20 Bb2 Qxa1 21 Bxa1 *(21 Qxf6? Qxb2)* Rxf3 22 gf Re8 △ ...Re1 and Black wins.

Totbits VI:
The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly

by James T. Totty

Meet the Lebel family on holiday in Val Thorens. They've come to play a bit of chess. Madame spent Round One grappling with Phil Crocker while the lights were out, but her forte was in the eighth, with a huge *j'adoube* row at 11 pm on the last night. Monsieur, on the other hand, met me on the first day and, perhaps distracted by goings on in the far corner, we produced the following masterpiece.

□ **J. Totty (1820)**
■ **P. Lebel (2240)**
Val Thorens (1) 1991
Torre Attack
1 d4 g6 2 ♘f3 ♗g7 3 ♗g5 d6 4 e3 ♘d7 5 ♘bd2 f6!?
[Enough to make a Torre player drool.]
6 ♗h4 ♘h6 7 c3 0–0 8 ♗c4+ ♔h8 9 d5
[Yo!] **9...♘e5 10 ♘xe5 de**

At this point, I began to wonder whether this Gauloise–smoking, beret–wearing, garlic–chewing fellow European was ready for the stunning novelty just out of Cambridge, introduced in Howell–Johnson, Peterhouse–Trinity II, College League 1991: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 Nc3 Qa5 5 d4 d6 6 d5 and then 6..."Would you like to stop the clocks to go and have a doner?!!" TN
Mein Gott! So new even that Kasparov did not play it against Karpov in the last World Championship match! There were gasps from the grandmasters in the press room when this idea was tried:

"Zees ees strooaardinary" — Vlastimil Hort
"Flooboodywiffleyweep" — Miguel Najdorf
"F@?† me" — Tom Vout

But more excitement was still to come!
7 "Well, yeah OK" !!! Howell refutes it over the board!

Quickly, Andrew Cooper rushed up to save the situation, quoting little known FIDE rule Article 473 Clause (z):

"No game shall be stopped for the procurement of Middle-Eastern delicacies between moves 3 and 27"

But too late, the players were gone, and all this and much much more was passing through my mind as I desparately tried to think of the French for doner. Le doner? La doner? Trois grands doners avec chili chaud? Ooops, seem to be wandering a bit astray here. I digress.

11 ♕b3 ♘f5 12 ♗g3 ♘d6 13 ♗e2 f5 14 0–0–0 g5
[The refined positional manœuvring goes on. Black plans a kingside chevauchée with his pawns and White aims for anything takes h7 mate.]
15 f3 ♕e8 16 h4
[At one with the position.]
16...g4 17 fxg4 fxg4 18 e4!?
[Not sure about this one, but I can't really let the Bc8 find a home on f5 or g6.]
18...♗d7 19 ♕c2 ♕h5 20 ♘f1 ♗h6+ 21 ♘d2 ♗f4 22 ♗xf4 ef 23 ♖df1 ♕e5 24 h5! ♖f6 25 ♖h4 ♖g8 26 h6!! ♖gg6 27 ♖fg1 ♕g5???
[And outside, in the cold clear mountain air, a flock of pigs were fluttering around a blue moon. Now, like Ramedes and Aida, rook and queen are walled up to await their fate.]
28 ♖h5
[Tough to find, that one.]
28...♖xh6 29 ♖xg5 ♖xh1+ 30 ♗d1 ♘f7 31 e5 ♘xg5 32 ef ef 33 ♕d3 f3 34 gf g3!
[Wibble. The shit hits the fan.]
35 ♕e2 ♗h3 36 ♕e7 h6
[This next bit's reconstructed from memory because there's a big cassoulet stain all over the bottom of my scoresheet. Can't think how.]
37 ♕xf6+ ♔h7 38 ♕e7+ ♔g6 39 ♕e8+ ♔g7
[And now, of course, 40 Qe5+ 1–0, but no, I wanted more fun out of M. Lebel.]
40 ♕e7+?? ♘f7
[Bugger.]
41 ♘c4!!
[The only way to draw. Everything else is hopeless against ...g2 Δ ...g1=Q.]
41...g2 42 ♘e5 ♖xd1+!! 43 ♔c2!!
[It's boat–burning time, as the rook is as safe as a pork chop in a synagogue. If 43 Kxd1?? Black queens with check and plays Qh2+ picking up the Ne5.]
43...♗f5+ 44 ♔b3 ♗g6 45 ♘xf7 ♗xf7 46 ♕e5+ ½–½
[The check is fairly perpetual.]

Non Angli sed Angeli

Es gibt eine Wespe in meinem Apfel

by John Wilson

Internationale Schachtage Baden Baden 1991

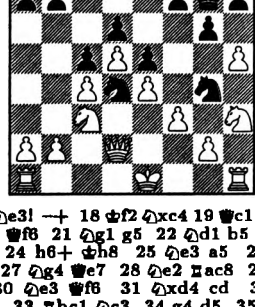
Ah, Eastbourne. Holiday playground of the young and beautiful, current resting place of the ailing British Championships. Don't get me wrong, the Major Open and I have been very happy together the last couple of years, but there comes a time when one has to move on to pastures new. The lure of eleven more unambitious opponents with a grade of 187¾, a wife, two children and a dog is not what it was. I had to get away: I leapt on the next train to Germany, and spent the evening listening to Sarah insist that we had long since passed Baden Baden, our first port of call.

In case you don't know, Baden Baden is an extremely pleasant spa town in southern Germany, a favourite holiday resort of the Kaiser and the great Russian writers of the 19th century. Its chess tradition stretches back to 1870, when Adolf Anderssen won what was then the strongest tournament ever held. In 1925, Alekhine came and beat everyone, but this year they had to make do with a vanload of Georgians. Among them, I spied that cutest of phallic ligniform totem manipulators, Ketevan Kakhiani, while a treat for the girls was the participation of hunky IM Georgy Georgadze. The rest of the contingent, GMs Zaichik and Nona Gaprindashvili, IMs Dzhandzhgava and Sturua, and WGM Nino Gurieli, were perhaps less horny but certainly made up for it with their precocious talents and desire for hard currency. The casino next door attracted the entry of GM Barlov, while the home team was represented by GMs Lau, Espig and, er, Gutman, plus a couple of hundred assorted Bavarian bunnies.

The first round saw my 150 opponent enter a state of shock on witnessing my trendy opening, complete with N on move 6, and lose a pawn and then the game as a mark of respect. Sturua tried to get an Icelandic Gambit (1 e4 d5 2 ed Nf6 3 c4 e6, for those of you who wouldn't touch a book by And. Martin with Andrew Cooper's puntpole) without success, and disaster struck when my favourite Grandmistress went down to a random 170 in a game too painful to reproduce here. On the same theme, here's what befell a lady who was World Women's Champion for 16 years:

□ **N. Gaprindashvili (GM 2425)**
■ **W. Baczinski**
Baden Baden 1991(1)
King's Indian Averbakh

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 O–O 5 ♗e2 d6 6 ♗g5 ♘a6 7 ♕d2 c6 8 h4 ♘c7 9 h5 ♘e6 10 ♗e3 c5 11 d5 ♘d4 12 ♗d1 e6 13 ♗h6 e5 14 ♘h3 ♗g4 15 ♗xg7 ♔xg7 16 ♗xg4 ♘xg4 17 f3??



17...♘e3! –+ 18 ♔f2 ♘xc4 19 ♕c1 ♕h4+ 20 g3 ♕f6 21 ♘g1 g5 22 ♘d1 b5 23 b3 ♘b6 24 h6+ ♔h8 25 ♘e3 a5 26 ♖b1 ♖g8 27 ♘g4 ♕e7 28 ♘e2 ♖ac8 29 ♕d2 b4 30 ♘e3 ♕f6 31 ♘xd4 cd 32 ♘f5 ♘xd5 33 ♖bc1 ♘c3 34 g4 d5 35 ed

Round about here, Nona's flag fell, causing her opponent to peer repeatedly at the clocks but not to claim a win on time, while the increasingly flabbergasted crowd tried not to laugh. Like a true professional, Nona shrugged her shoulders and played on as if nothing were wrong.

35...♘xd5 36 ♖he1 ♖c3 37 ♖xc3 bc 38 ♕d3 ♘f4 39 ♕e4 ♘g6 40 a3 ♕b6

Perhaps Herr Baczinski was enjoying himself so much that he felt it would be a shame not to force Nona to resign. All I can say is that he'd have looked more than silly if he'd failed in this respect.

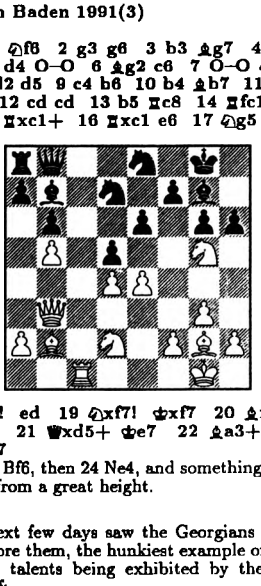
41 ♔g3 ♕f6 42 ♕d5 ♖d8 43 ♕c5 ♘h4 44 ♕c7 ♘xf5+ 45 gf ♖g8 46 ♖xe5 ♕xh6 47 ♖d5 ♕h4+ 48 ♔g2 g4 49 f4 ♕h3+ 50 ♔g1 ♕e3+ 51 ♔h2 ♕f2+ 0–1

Also unimpressive was the tournament performance of Ralf Lau, who drew in ten minutes and retired from the competition before I'd even spotted him. The laws of nature underwent further violation the next morning, as the frenzied bell-ringers at the church next door took their toll on my sanity, and I contrived to force a loss against a complete bunny with a horrid beard. The top boards were awash with unequal 'struggles' (as Botvinnik used to put it), my favourite being this little beauty.

□ **Z. Sturua (IM 2510)**
■ **J. Kiwitter**
Baden Baden 1991(2)
Modern Defence
1 ♘f3 g6 2 e4 ♗g7 3 d4 ♘f6
The master's cunning move order appears to have his opponent perplexed: I can't believe he really meant to do this.
4 e5 ♘e4 5 c4 c6 6 ♗d3 ♕a5+ 7 ♘bd2 d5 8 O–O ♗f5 9 ♖e1 ♘xf2!!
A stroke of genius.
10 ♔xf2 ♗xd3 11 ♘b3 ♕a6!
Black may even have seen as far as 12 Qxd3 dc.
12 ♘c5
'Stobbit, San, I'll piss meself!'
12...♕xc4 13 ♘xd3 1–0

I managed to win in round 3, but the shafting of the day was perpetrated by Gutman:

□ **L. Gutman (GM 2465)**
■ **D. Genster**
Baden Baden 1991(3)
Réti
1 ♘f3 ♘f6 2 g3 g6 3 b3 ♗g7 4 ♗b2 d6 5 d4 O–O 6 ♗g2 c6 7 O–O ♘bd7 8 ♘bd2 d5 9 c4 b6 10 b4 ♗b7 11 ♕b3 ♕b8 12 cd cd 13 b5 ♖c8 14 ♖fc1 ♘e8 15 e4 ♖xc1+ 16 ♖xc1 e6 17 ♘g5 h6



18 ed! ed 19 ♘xf7! ♔xf7 20 ♗xd5+ ♗xd5 21 ♕xd5+ ♔e7 22 ♗a3+ ♔d8 23 ♕f7 1–0
If 23...Bf6, then 24 Ne4, and something lands on e7 from a great height.

The next few days saw the Georgians sweep all before them, the hunkiest example of their special talents being exhibited by the man himself:

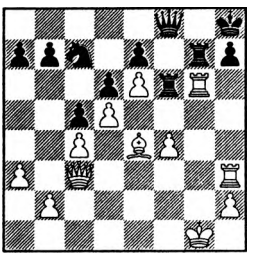
□ **G. Georgadze (IM 2515)**
■ **R. Stern (2360)**
Baden Baden 1991(5)
Queen's Gambit Declined
1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗e7 4 ♘f3 ♘f6 5 ♗f4 O–O 6 e3 c5 7 dc ♗xc5 8 ♕c2 ♘c6 9 a3 ♕a5 10 O–O–O (woof!) **♗e7 11 g4 dc 12 ♗xc4 e5 13 g5 ef 14 gf ♗xf6 15 ♘d5 ♗e6? N**
According to New In Chess Yearbook 18, 15...Ne7! is 'a good move, and the only manœuvre that enables Black to keep his head above water'.
16 ♘xf6+ gf 17 ♗xe6 fe 18 ♖d7! ♘e7 19 ♖g1+ ♔h8 20 ♖xe7 1–0

Zaichik had a rather embarrassing experience in the same round, when with two rooks and bishop for queen, he succeeded not only in avoiding a perpetual check, but also in losing one of his rooks. While thunderous expressions gathered on the Grandmaster's face, his unsympathetic Georgian friends fell about laughing, and he ended up with only half a point.

In round 6, little Ketevan chalked up her fifth successive win, and having only scraped draws in the previous two days, I decided it was high time to follow her example. So I stepped inside my orgone accumulator, and thought nice thoughts about leggy Romanian love goddess Adriana Domuta. The question is, 'What happened next?'

□ **J. Wilson (2210)**
■ **S. Inhoven (107)**
Baden Baden 1991(6)
Vulture
1 d4 ♘f6
Confusingly, the Germans use Ingo grades, which are in some kind of inverse proportion to playing strength.
2 c4 c5
But he's probably around 175–180.
3 d5 ♘e4
Although you could be forgiven for not believing it. I sometimes wonder, in view of the wide variety of excellent openings available to Black, what motivates anybody to resort to such nonsense. Calling the Vulture a Disreputable Chess Opening would confer unmerited respectability on it.
4 f3 ♕a5+ 5 ♘d2 ♘d6 6 e4 g6 7 e5 ♘f5 8 ♗d3 ♘d4
8...d6 9 f4; 8...Ne3? 9 Qe2 Bh6 10 Kf2! △ 11 Nb3.
9 ♘e2 ♘xe2 10 ♕xe2 ±
Black's opening has failed in all respects other than getting me out of my book.
10...♗g7 11 O–O O–O 12 f4 d6 13 ♘f3 ♕c7 14 ♗d2

14 h3 is more accurate.
14...♗g4 15 ♗c3 f6?
It's hard to suggest constructive plans for Black, but allowing me to erect such a firm central phalanx would not have been very close to the top of the list.
16 e6 ♗xf3 17 ♖xf3 f5 18 ♗xg7 ♔xg7 19 ♕d2 ♘a6 20 a3 ♕d8 21 g4!
In an effort to shake off my reputation for erring on the side of safety, I offer the sacrifice of a pawn!
21...fg 22 ♖g3 ♖f6
In the event of 22...h5, 23 f5! △ 24 Qg5+ would have consummated my conception.
23 ♖xg4 ♔h8 24 ♖f1 ♕f8 25 ♕c3 ♕h6 26 ♖f3
Planning 27 Bxg6! △ 28 Rh3.
26...♖g8 27 ♗e4 ♘c7 28 ♖h3 ♕f8 29 ♖xg6!
Threatening 30 Rxh7+! and 31 Qh3+ mating.
29...♖g7

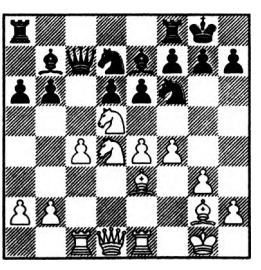


30 ♔h1!!
This sneaky king move in the middle of my attack had me writhing around in total ecstasy. After the game, Sarah punctured my ego by telling me she thought it was really obvious. I suppose I should take this as a compliment to my unique chess lessons. The idea is to make Rxg7 a threat, as the queen no longer recaptures with check.
30...♖gxg6 31 ♗xg6 h6 32 f5 b6 33 ♕c1
(Rather better than 33 Qd2 Rxg6!) 1–0

Round 7 was no less satisfying, as my opponent got cheapoed in the opening and finally succumbed when my central pawn column penetrated to d2 and d4. Sturua went into the clear lead with 6½ by sorting out Barlov, little Ketevan went down to Georgadze, and Nona completed her game from the previous day, winning in 131 moves. Her opponent's technique of losing 2 knights v. 2 bishops and pawn seems quite implausible to me, but I'm hardly going to type in a game that size, am I?

Round 8 was a good one for the Georgian girlies, all of whom won, but the main crowd-puller of the day seemed to be happening down on board 15.

□ H. Holmsgaard (2295)
■ J. Wilson (2210)
Baden Baden 1991(8)
Hedgehog
1 ♘f3
Henrik Holmsgaard is from Helsingör.
1...♘f6 2 c4
Like the other Danes I have encountered, he is large and amiable.
2...e6 3 ♘c3
But his taste in openings does have a slight tendency towards the solid.
3...c5 4 g3
Then again, the sequel suggests that this may just be a ploy to lull the opposition into a false sense of security.
4...b6 5 ♗g2 ♗b7 6 O–O ♗e7 7 ♖e1
This is an interesting alternative to 7 d4. Mind you, I'm sure there's more than one way to kill a hedgehog.
7...d6 8 e4 O–O
8...a6 should be played here, says John Watson in his book on the Symmetrical English, and I think this game might give you some idea why.
9 d4 cd 10 ♘xd4 ♕c8
This move gets a '!' from Povah in *How to Play the English Opening*, a book which nowhere mentions Cathy Forbes. Despite improving on 10...Nbd7?? 11 e5!+–, as I once played (successfully) in a City Quickplay, it's still a bit sad. 10...a6 runs into 11 e5! de 12 Bxb7 Ra7 13 Nc6 Qxd1 14 Nxe7+ Kh8 15 Rxd1 Rxb7 16 b3.
10...Qc7 is a slight improvement, as 11 Ndb5 Qxc4 12 Nxd6 is nothing to worry about, but White should continue as in the game.
11 ♗e3 a6 12 ♖c1 ♘bd7 13 f4 ♕c7 14 ♘d5!!



Unfortunately, Henrik's street cred vanished in a puff of smoke, when he confessed afterwards that he was simply churning out theory, thus making an immediate transition in my estimation, from imaginative tactician to socially inadequate theory hack. Completely oblivious to this possibility at the time, my first thought was that he was shooting off a heap of Barry, but after consuming unfeasible amounts of time it became apparent that I was in a spot of Scheiße.

14...ed 15 cd ♕d8 16 ♘c6 ♗xc6 17 dc ♘c5 18 c7 ♕c8

In the original game, in which Black played ...Qc7 in one go, and hence had time to get ...Re8 in as well, he took on c7, but his efforts to grovel the position after 19 e5 and Bxa8 were in vain. Of course, such a policy was not nearly macho enough for a player of my integrity.

19 e5 de 20 b4 ♘cd7 21 fe ♘xe5 22 ♗d4 ♘g6 23 ♕f3 ♕d7 24 ♗xf6 ♗xf6?

Having performed a stoical defensive task, it now completely slipped my mind that it is not necessary to capture a piece just because it is legal to do so. Much better is 24...Rac8, and Black is still in the game.

25 ♕xa8 ♖xa8 26 ♗xa8 ♗d4+ 27 ♔g2 ♗c5

The move I was relying on, but it doesn't change much.

28 bc ♕xc7 29 ♖e8+ ♘f8 30 c6 f6 31 ♖d1?

31 Rce1! Kf7 *(31...Qd6 32 c7! △ 32...Qxc7 33 Bd5+)* 32 Bb7 intending 33 R8e7+ wins.

31...♔f7 32 ♖ed8

32 Rdd8 Ne6 33 Rd7+ Kxe8 34 Rxc7 Nxc7 is a good losing try.

32...♕e5

But now the queen is free to entertain the crowds by causing havoc in the time scramble.

33 ♖1d2 ♕e4+ 34 ♔f2 ♕f5+ 35 ♔g1 ♘e6 36 ♖8d7+ ♔g6 37 ♗b7 ♕e5 38 ♖7d5 ♕e1+ 39 ♔g2 ♕e4+ 40 ♔g1 ♕e1+ 41 ♔g2 ♕e4+ ½–½

41 Kf1 Qh1+, 41 Kh3 Ng5+ and 41 Kf2 Ng5 are all attempts to play for less which might well meet with success.

My last round game was somewhat more pleasing to one player than the other, as René Stern took my queen and most of the rest of my pieces, and made his IM norm as a result. My spirits were lifted, however, when it transpired that my result was still worth a kiddie prize of DM145. At the top, the Georgians produced a final surge, Nino Gurieli wobbling her extensive chest at Gutman until he could take no more, while Georgadze decided to impress the girls by beating Dzhandzhgava, no doubt to the extreme annoyance of the latter, as he hardly got any money.

When the music stopped, the leaders had ordered themselves in the following remarkable advertisement for women's chess:

1–4: Gaprindashvili, Georgadze, Gurieli, Sturua 7½/9;
5–9: Goryatschkin, Kakhiani, Lingnau, Urban, Zaichik 7;
10–19: Barlov, Carlier, Dzhandzhgava, Gutman, Herbrechtsmeier, Holmsgaard, Klebel, Natali, Polzin, Stern 6½.

And they all lived happily ever after.

Schlagen die Häschen in Berlin

My endeavours to be a long way from Eastbourne at the beginning of August took me to sunny East Berlin the following week. Sandcastles were out of the question, so after introducing myself to the friendly warthogs in the zoo, it was off to Ho Chi Minh Straße for one of the biggest and strangest Opens there is. There was not much more aesthetically appealing than the interminable tower blocks to divert my attention, which was just as well in view of the hordes of fine players present. What looked like three busloads of Soviet players turned up, to say nothing of a large contingent of escapees masquerading as Israelis. Among the 30 or so GMs were ex-Candidates Dreev, Vaganian, Sokolov (relax girls, that's Andrei not Ivan), and Yefim Geller, as popular as he is toothless, and with around 70 IMs taking a keen interest in the Deutsche Bank's wad, something of a rat race was in prospect.

Having been the lone British representative in Baden Baden, I was cheered to see a few familiar faces, although the down side was that two of them belonged to Matthew and Mrs Sadler (yes, at 17 he still doesn't leave home without her). However this is not the place to speculate about the mysterious noises heard emanating from their hotel room in Aosta). The Scottish challenge was led by IMs Paul 'well, it's really ever so kind of you to offer me a draw, and I'll certainly have to think about it very carefully, but seeing as I've got an extra queen and rook, as well as a forced mate in three, I think I'll play on a bit and see if I can make anything of my advantage' Motwani and Colin McNab, while the Channel Islands' most indefatigable FIDE master, Simon le Blancq, no doubt felt the

tournament would be enhanced by his participation. Unfortunately for him, his collection of points was so miniscule that, having gravitated to the bunny room by the second round, he spent the rest of the competition struggling to make it up to the magic board 157, but to no avail. Not wishing to be seen in such a predicament, he spent all his time strolling round the main hall watching the games, only to sneak off downstairs periodically to make his move.

Before the start, I wondered aloud what sort of player would be found on board 100 in the first round. My question was soon answered, as it turned out to be me and German IM Detlef Heinbuch, who taught me not to forget my theory in rather painful fashion. The next day, my eyes lit up at the sight of rows of 2200s with no points paired with bunnies. So imagine my surprise when I found that I'd been given Romanian WGM Elisaveta Polihroniade, who was one of the world's leading lady players in the 1970s, although since then her rating has slimmed down considerably. Nevertheless, the prospect of 0/2 did worry me a little, but one of the nice controllers explained to me about their deviant pairing system, said something about giving me a chance for a norm, and even offered to help out if I had any special requests!

While it might be a little unkind to publish a game of the quality of that which follows, I've never beaten a Grandmaster before, and I am one of the editors of this magazine. The more respectful among you don't have to play through it if you don't want to.

□ **E. Polihroniade (WGM 2180)**
■ **J. Wilson (2210)**
Berlin 1991(2)
Caro-Kann

1 e4 c6 2 c4 d5 3 ed cd 4 cd ♘f6 5 ♘c3

Of the three major alternatives to the Panov attack here (the others being 5 Qa4+ and 5 Bb5+), this seems to be the most popular and least dangerous.

5...♘xd5 6 ♗c4 ♘b6 7 ♗b3 ♘c6 8 ♘f3 ♗f5 9 O–O

This is very provocative: normal is 9 d4 e6 10 O–O Be7 11 Be3 O–O as in Honfi–Varnusz, Hungarian ch 1962, when 12 d5= is a move which may be of some interest to the less ambitious members of the club.

9...♗d3 10 ♘g5

10 Re1 e6 is not really the point.

10...e6 11 ♕f3

The critical move is 11 Nxf7, a possible continuation being 11...Kxf7 12 Qf3+ Ke8 *(no prizes for 12...Kg8 13 Bxe6# or 12...Bf5 13 Qxf5+, while 12...Ke7 13 Re1 looks dangerous, e.g. 13...e5 14 Qf7+ Kd6 15 Re3 with a strong attack)* 13 Re1 *(13 Bxe6 Qf6)* 13...Be7, when White has obvious compensation, but it's not clear whether it is sufficient.

11...♘e5 12 ♕f4

Not 12 Qxb7?? Rb8! 13 Qxa7 Be7! and White has rook and knight attacked, while 14...Nc6 trapping the queen is also threatened (13...Nc6 is not as strong).

12...♗xf1

Played perhaps a smidgeon over-enthusiastically.

13 ♕xe5 ♕f6 14 ♕a5 ♗d3 15 ♗a4+ ♘xa4 16 ♕xa4+ ♔d8 17 ♘ce4 ♗xe4 18 ♘xe4 ♕e5 19 d3 ♗c5

White has some compensation for the exchange, but not enough. Having spotted that 20...f5 is not much of a threat, as it is met by 21 Bg5+ guarding the back rank, my opponent was presumably under the impression that e1 is defended. However, in a curious parallel to a certain game in round 2 of the 1987 Lloyds Bank Masters, in which a well-known titled female player suffered checkmate in 20 moves at the hands of my Caro-Kann, the game came to a sudden end...

20 ♘xc5?? ♕e1# 1–0

After some delay in comprehending the significance of this move, my opponent became rather displeased.

No sooner had I chalked up a few sorely needed rating points than I lost them all back again, to a German 2260 who was not so much random as turbocharged: after giving a couple of 2400s a good seeing to, he drew with three consecutive 2500s before finally getting impaled by Bagirov. However, his last-round win against a 160 sufficed for a rather substantial IM norm. In the meantime, the Mephisto computer had opened its account by beating a random 2350, before putting Dutch IM van Mil to the sword. When it finally met its Waterloo in the shape of Israeli (?) GM Lev Psakhis, there was one very relieved-looking 2575 patrolling the Kongreßhaus.

The cycling shorts of trendy local lady Sibylle Heyme were not sufficient to prevent me gaining an advantage in number of pawns as a result of her faulty play in the opening, but I did spend an enjoyable afternoon demonstrating my endgame technique. Round 5 presented me with someone who thought he was hard because he'd beaten a couple of 160s, but sadly his delusions of grandeur were no more than a smoking ruin 23 moves later. By now I was feeling quite pleased with myself, and the next day's draw gave me the opportunity to

make up for my indifferent form in Aosta by beating an Italian.

□ **A. Serpi (2225)**
■ **J. Wilson (2210)**
Berlin 1991(6)
Caro-Kann

1 e4 c6 2 ♘c3 d5 3 ♘f3 ♗g4 4 h3 ♗h5 5 ed cd 6 ♗b5+ ♘c6 7 g4 ♗g6 8 ♘e5 ♖c8 9 d4 e6 10 h4

After the game, I christened this the '0/4 Variation', to commemorate its lifetime score against me. Everyone so far has bottled out of the theory which starts with 10 Qe2, for reasons best known to themselves.

10...f6 11 ♘xg6 hg 12 ♕d3 ♔f7 13 h5 gh 14 gh

A novelty unlikely to be repeated occurred in D.Knox–Wilson, Manchester open 1991: 14 Bd2?? Nb4 15 Qg3 Bd6 16 Qg2 Nxc2+ 17 Kd1 Nxa1 18 gh Ne7 19 Bd3 f5 20 Nxd5 Nxd5 21 Qg6+ Kf8 22 h6 Qf6 23 hg+ Qxg7 24 Rxh8+ Qxh8 25 Qxe6 Qh1+ 26 Be1 Ne7 0–1

14...♘e7 15 ♗xc6 N

15 Be3 Nf5=+ was Fischer–Smyslov, Candidates 1959. I don't imagine the text move changes the assessment much; 15...bc is also good enough.

15...♖xc6 16 ♗d2 ♘f5 17 ♘e2 ♕b6 18 O–O–O ♖c4

My first, and quite likely better, thought was to go for the ending with 18...Qa6. However, in my quest to avoid the looming indignity of falling off the bottom of the FIDE rating list, my normally mild-mannered style underwent a strange metamorphosis.

19 ♗c3 ♗d6 20 ♘g3 ♗f4+ 21 ♔b1 ♖hc8 22 ♔a1

22 Nxf5 Rxc3 23 Nd6+ Bxd6 24 Qg6+ Kg8! 25 h6 Bf8 doesn't quite work.

22...♘e7 23 ♘e2

23 h6!? Bxh6 24 Rxh6 gh 25 Qh7+ Ke8 26 Nb5 Kd7!? 27 Nxf6+ Kd6 and Black has good chances of a successful defence.

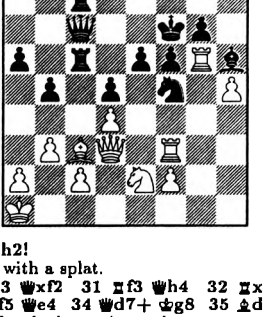
23...♗h6 24 ♖hg1 ♕c7 25 ♖g3 ♘f5 26 ♖f3 a6 27 ♖g1

Ng3 now or later loses to the cute reply ...Nh4.

27...b5 28 b3?

28 a3 was necessary, after which the game could go either way.

28...♖c6 29 ♖g6



29...♕h2!
Played with a splat.
30 ♖h3 ♕xf2 31 ♖f3 ♕h4 32 ♖xf5 ef 33 ♕xf5 ♕e4 34 ♕d7+ ♔g8 35 ♗d2
Going for the last-minute cheaps.
35...♖6c7!
But now nearly all his pieces are hanging at once.
36 ♘g3 ♕xd4+ 0–1
Andrea Serpi knows when he's beaten.

Having accumulated an orgone-rich 4/6, it was with some trepidation that I sat behind the black pieces opposite Karsten Schulz, who at 2375 must be one of Die Toten Hosen's highest-rated fans. I was beginning to wish I hadn't been so entertained by his disastrous performance at Baden Baden. However, my P.K.Wells drawing line, which I hoped but failed to use in the Varsity match due to having the wrong colour, made a successful début, enabling me to exchange lots of pieces and shake hands after a mere 23 moves.

The greatest spectacle of the day took place a few hours later, in the game between Sadler and Soviet GM Alexander Shneider. both of whom were going well on 5/6. Shneider had left himself with only two minutes for 20 moves, while the popular English player still had half an hour, which he proceeded to consume at an alarming rate. I wouldn't like to speculate about the nature of the events on the board that followed; suffice to say that it ended with a tearful little Matthew fleeing the tournament hall at top speed, with mummy in hot pursuit, while a bemused Shneider stayed in his chair, surveying the pieces strewn over the floor and contemplating one of the more emotional resignations to have been offered to him. Whatever happened to the friendly handshake and polite congratulations on a finely-played game, I ask myself?

With two rounds remaining, an IM norm was still a (logical) possibility for me, although

I must say that 2/2 against IMs felt a little bit steep. Considerate as ever, the controllers responded to my needs with a fairly tasty pairing:

□ **J. Wilson (2210)**
■ **E. Mnatsakanian (IM 2410)**
Berlin 1991(8)
Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6

Eduard Mnatsakanian is from Armenia, his favourite opening is the Slav defence, and he has tattoos on his fingers. He would also make an excellent baddie for a James Bond film.

3 cd

Loveday says: 'I'd rather get my tits caught in the meat grinder than be seen to play the exchange Slav.'

3...cd 4 ♘c3 ♘f6 5 ♘f3 ♘c6 6 ♗f4 e6 7 e3 ♗e7 8 h3 O–O 9 ♗d3 ♗d7

9...h6?! was played in Wilson–Johnson, University ch 1991, a game I've been looking for an excuse to publish ever since Mark Thornton said my loss to Phil Crocker was 'very impressive (possibly the game of the tournament)'. That game continued 10 Rc1 Bd7 11 Ne5 Rc8 12 O-O Na5 13 Nxd7 Qxd7 14 Qa4 Nc4 15 Qxd7 Nxd7 16 b3 Nd2 17 Rfd1 Ba3 18 Rc2 Bb4 19 Rdc1 Ba3 (one of the players was expecting a draw by repetition to follow shortly) 20 Nxd5! Rxc2 21 Rxc2 Nxb3 22 ab ed 23 Ra2! g5 24 Bg3 Bc1 25 Rxa7 f5 26 Rxb7 f4 27 ef gf 28 Bxf4 Rxf4 29 Rxd7 Rxd4 30 Rxd5! 1–0

10 ♖c1

10 O-O is more accurate, e.g. 10...Rc8 11 Qe2 Be8 12 Rfc1 a6 13 Ne5 Nxe5 14 Bxe5 Nd7 15 Bg3 f5 16 Rc2 Nb6 17 Rac1 und die harmonischere Figurenstellung räumt Weiß die besseren Möglichkeiten ein (Fuchs–Minew, Olympiade 1960).

10...♖c8 11 O–O a6 12 ♘e5 ♗e8 13 ♗g5 ♘d7

I didn't expect 13...Nxe5? 14 de Nd7 15 Bxe7 Qxe7 16 Nxd5!+–

14 ♗xe7 ♕xe7 15 ♘xc6 ♖xc6 16 ♘a4 ♘b8 17 ♖xc6 ♗xc6 18 ♕c2?

Of course, 18 Nc5 gives White a good enough position, but I forgot that my attempt at a cunning intermediate move did not stop him simply removing my horsey and lumbering me with much the worse minor piece and a horrible position.

18...♗xa4 19 ♕xa4 ♖c8 20 ♕a5 ♕d6 21 ♕d2 ♕c7 22 f3 g6 23 ♖f2 ♕b6 24 ♕d1 ♖c6 25 f4 ♕a5 26 a3 ♔g7 27 g4!?

If left alone, Black builds up an attack on the queenside at his leisure, involving moves such as ...Qc7, ...b5 and ...Nd7-b6-c4 in some order, so I launched a desperate bid to complicate the game.

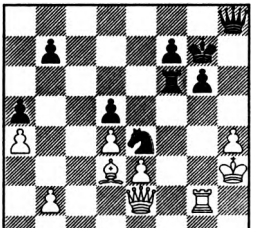
27...♘d7 28 f5 ef 29 gf ♘f6 30 fg hg 31 ♕f3 ♕e1+ 32 ♔g2 ♖e6 33 ♖e2 ♕c1 34 ♕f1 ♕c6 35 ♕f3 ♕e8 36 ♖f2 ♕e7

White's position is full of weaknesses, and there is nothing to do but sit and try not to lose anything, while the opponent manœuvres to his heart's content.

37 ♖e2 ♘h5 38 ♔h2 ♕c7+ 39 ♔g1 ♕d6 40 ♖f2 f6 41 ♖g2 ♕e7 42 ♖e2 a5 43 a4 ♕b4 44 ♗b5 ♘e4 45 h4 ♖f6 46 ♕g4 ♕b3 47 ♔h2 ♕d1 48 ♖g2 ♕c1 49 ♕e2 ♕c7+ 50 ♔g1 ♕c1+

Given the state of my position, I felt it was enough of an achievement even to have reached the time control. Luckily for me, the last two rounds were to be played to a finish; otherwise, some collective Armenian analysis would have terminated me in no uncertain terms.

51 ♔h2 ♕c8 52 ♗d3 ♕h8 53 ♔h3



53...♖e6?

53...g5! wins: 54 h5 Rh6 55 Bxe4 Rxh5+ 56 Kg4 *(56 Kg3 Rh3+ 57 Kf2 [57 Kg4 Qh4+ 58 Kf5 Qxe4+ 59 Kxg5 f6#] Qh4+ 58 Kf1 Rh1+ 59 Rg1 Qxe4)* 56...f5+! 57 Kxf5 *(57 Bxf5 Rh3!)* 57...Qh7+ 58 Kg4 *(58 Ke6 Qxe4+ 59 Kd7 Qf5+ 60 Kd6 Rh6+ 61 Kc5 Qc8+ 62 Kxd5 Qc6+ 63 Ke5 Qe6#)* 58...Qxe4+ 59 Kg3 Rh3+! 60 Kf2 Qh4+ 61 Kf1 Rh1+ 62 Rg1 Qh3+ 63 Qg2 Rxg1+ 64 Kxg1 Qxe3+ 65 Kh2 Qf4+ 66 Kh1 Qh4+ etc. With an hour to reach move 70, he spent three quarters of it on this move, and then failed to play it. Now the game regains its competitive interest.

54 ♗xe4 ♖xe4 55 ♖g4 ♕c8 56 ♔g3 ♕c7+ 57 ♖f4 ♖e6 58 ♔f3 ♖c6 59 ♕b5 ♕d7 60 ♔g3 ♕e6 61 e4! ♖b6 62 ♕xd5 ♖b3+ 63 ♖f3 ♕xd5 64 ed ♖xb2 65 ♔f4!

Impress the large crowds of your opponent's rather strong friends by centralising your king and outplaying him in the ending.

65...♔f6 66 ♔e4+ ♔e7 67 d6+ ♔xd6 68 ♖xf7 ♔e6 69 ♖g7 ♔f6 70 ♖c7 ♔e6 71 ♖c5 ♖h2 72 ♖xa5 ♖xh4+ 73 ♔e3 ♖h5 74 ♖a7 ♖h7 75 a5 ♔d5 76 a6 ♖h3+ 77 ♔f4 (at which point my opponent made some guttural noises I didn't understand, shook my hand and wrote '½–½' on his scoresheet) **½–½**

The last round was a short one for nearly everyone on the top boards, as the leaders gave a convincing demonstration of the conservation of energy. The exception that proved the rule was the game between two of the game's greatest fighters, Geller and Kupreichik, although they too ended up sharing the point. First equal on 7½ were last year's winner, Vereslav Eingorn, and young Dutch IM Loek van Wely, who must have had a somewhat unfeasible performance. The only other non-USSR born player to dent the top 20 was Chilean IM Cifuentes Parada, in another tour de force by the products of what used to be called the Soviet School of Chess. Meanwhile, all I had to do for a book prize was beat veteran GM Alexei Suetin with Black ...

□ A. Suetin (GM 2405)
■ J. Wilson (2210)
Berlin 1991(9)
Caro-Kann

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 de 4 ♘xe4 ♘d7 5 ♗c4 ♘gf6 6 ♘g5 e6 7 ♕e2 ♘b6 8 ♗b3

Alexei Suetin is from Moscow, and despite being 64 years old, he took clear first place with 8/10 in the Hastings Challengers at the beginning of the year, ahead of 9 other GMs, 22 IMs, and many more. Please bear this in mind while watching me get stuffed.

8...a5

Despite having written the Batsford book on this opening, Suetin thought this was a new move. In fact it's given as the main line in *Play the Caro-Kann*, although nowadays 8...h6 9 N5f3 c5 is the most popular.

9 a3 a4 10 ♗a2 c5

I should have thrown in 10...h6 first: after 11 N5f3 c5, Varnusz says it's equal, e.g. 12 dc Bxc5 13 Ne5 O-O 14 Ngf3 Nbd7 15 O-O Nxe5 16 Nxe5 b6 17 Qf3 Ba6 Tukmakov–Zaitsev, USSR 1970.

11 dc ♗xc5 12 ♘1f3 ♕e7 13 O–O O–O 14 ♘e5 h6 15 ♘gf3 ♘bd7

The difference from the game above is that I have inserted the superfluous ...Qe7, and so I don't get time to exchange one of his knights.

16 ♘d3!? ♗d6 17 ♖e1

He wasn't too happy with this move, and suggested 17 Bd2 intending Bb4 as keeping his advantage.

17...♖e8 18 ♗d2 e5 19 ♘h4 ♘f8

Now I'm convinced that Black is objectively no worse, but it soon becomes clear which of the players is an experienced Grandmaster.

20 g3 e4 21 ♘b4 ♗e6

A search for improvements might start with 21...Bg4.

22 ♕b5 ♗d7 23 ♕f1

Funnily enough, he didn't want to lose his queen with 23 Qxb7?? or take a draw by repetition.

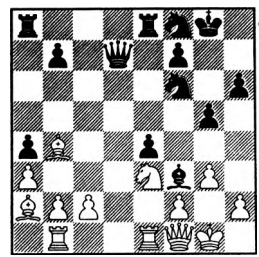
23...♗e6 24 ♖ad1 g5

The attempt to offer my queen for three pieces with 24...Bxa2 25 Nf5 Bxb4 26 Nxe7+ Bxe7 would have been to no avail, as he would simply have played 25 Nxa2 with a good position.

25 ♘g2 ♗g4 26 ♖b1 ♗f3 27 ♘e3 ♗xb4

I didn't fancy having d5 landed on, but the move played is a greater evil.

28 ♗xb4 ♕d7



29 ♖bd1!!

I always thought positional sacrifices of the exchange only happened in the books. Now White's position explodes into action in exemplary fashion.

29...♗xd1 30 ♖xd1 ♕c8 31 ♕b5 ♘g6 32 ♗c3 ♘g4 33 ♖d7 ♘4e5 34 ♗xf7+!

By this stage of the post mortem, young Alexei was rubbing his hands with glee.

34...♘xf7 35 ♕f5 ♘ge5

There is nothing to be done, e.g. 35...Qxd7 36 Qxg6+!

36 ♗xe5 ♕xd7 37 ♕g6+ ♔f8 38 ♗g7+ 1–0

Pooffy Chess Openings — London System vs ...g6

by Rajko Vujatović

□ **M. Franklin (2285, FM)**
■ **R. Vujatović**
Lloyds Bank Masters 1991 Round 8

1. d2–d4

"A pooff — innatt soommit yew sit on?" — P. J. Crocker.

1. ... ♘g8–f6
2. ♘g1–f3 g7–g6
3. ♗c1–f4

"?", ©Vujatović. The London system is Franklin's fave opening.

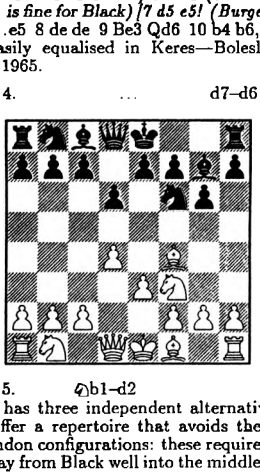
3. ... ♗f8–g7
4. e2–e3

4 Nbd2 0–0 5 e4 d6 transposes to a rarely played variation of the Modern Defence, which may arise from 1 e4 g6 2 e4 Bg7 3 Nf3 d6 4 Bf4 Nf6 5 Nbd2 0–0.

In this line, it might seem that White has a London system with an extra tempo, since he has played e2–e4 in one thrust. But this is not to his advantage, since for tactical reasons (namely that the Bf4 isn't protected by a Pe3) ...Qe8® does not need to precede ...e5.

Hence after (4 Nbd2 0–0 5 e4 d6) 6 c3 Nc6! (This would also be the answer to other moves, such as 6 Bd3 or 6 Be2) 7 Bb5 *(7 d5 Nb8 Δ ...e5!? is fine for Black) [7 d5 e5! (Burgess) — Ed]* 7...e5 8 de de 9 Be3 Qd6 10 b4 b6, Black had easily equalised in Keres—Boleslavsky, USSR 1965.

4. ... d7–d6



5. ♘b1–d2

White has three independent alternatives. I shall offer a repertoire that avoids the typical London configurations: these require accurate play from Black well into the middlegame, whilst White's moves are thematic and simple to find.

A:– **5 Be2** Nh5 6 Bg5 h6 7 Bh4 g5 8 Nfd2 *(8 Bg3 Nxg3 9 hg Nd7)* 8...Nf4 *(8...gh 9 Bxh5 e5 is also fine)* 9 ef gh Δ ...c5. Black has excellent play on Dickie Darksquarese.

As a general rule, chasing the bishop is a viable option if either:

(a) White has castled king-side; or

(b) White has developed his bishop to c2 (without h3, of course) instead of c4. Since the bishop is less active, and the white queen cannot go to h5, Black is well prepared to repel any subsequent attack.

B:– **5 Bc4** 0–0 6 c3 *(6 0–0 Nh5 7 Bg5 h6 8 Bh4 g5=+; 6 Nbd2 Nc6! transposes into the game)* 6...Nc6 Δ 7 0–0 Nh5.

C:– **5 h3** 0–0 **6 Be2** is a sly move order. Alternatives are 6 Nbd2 c5 7 c3 Nc6 8 Be2 cd 9 ed *(9 cd Bf5 Δ ...Rc8)* 9...e5! 10 de de 11 Nxe5 Nd5 12 Nxc6 bc 13 Bg3 Re8 14 0–0 Bxc3 (which was fine for Black in Cvitan—Sideif-Zade, Baku 1983) and 6 c3 c5 7 Bc4 *(7 Nbd2 Nc6 transposes above,* 7 *Be2 Be6 below)* 7...a6 8 a4, and now, with White's queenside weakened, 8...d5 9 Be2 cd is one of several promising options.

The best reply to 5 h3 0–0 6 Be2 is 6...c5!. If Black commits his knight now, then besides a London system, White can play 7 c4! and 8 Nc3, transposing into a very comfortable variation of the King's Indian: after 6...Nbd7 7 c4! Qe8 8 Nc3 e5 9 Bh2, White plans an attack on the dark squares with c5 and Nb5, whilst any Black counterplay with ...g5 and ...f4 takes far too long to prepare and isn't particularly dangerous anyway.

So 5 h3 0–0 6 Be2 c5! 7 c3 Be6! (7...b6 transposes into a typical London middlegame. The best follow up is ...Ba6, but Black still has to play accurately up to about move 20 to equalise. Andrew Martin — still only an IM — advocates this system by citing a game where White plays atrociously. Fine if you're up against a bunny [Fnarr, Fnarr!] but you're likely to be crushed by anyone who really knows what they're doing!) 8 dc dc 9 Qxd8 Rxd8 10 Nbd2 h6 11 Bc4 Bxc4 12 Nxc4 ½—½, Seirawan—Nunn, Zürich 1984. An alternative, 10 Na3 Nc6, was fine for Black Bellon—Timman, Thessaloniki (ol) 1984.

5. ... 0–0

6. ♗f1–c4

"The move Franklin normally plays" — Tim Harding in his 1979 (!) book *Colle, London and Blackmar–Diemer Systems*. Other moves either transpose to the previous note or allow Black to chase the bishop.

6. ... ♘b8–c6!

6...Nbd7 Δ ...Qe8, ...e5 is equal but a little tricky. The move played has the advantage of exerting pressure on d4 as well as e5.

7. c2–c3

This insipid move is the main line! The point is that if White allows the black e–pawn to advance to e4, then Black will have a position similar to the King's Indian line mentioned in the note to 5 h3 0–0 6 Be2, but with effectively several extra tempi (since the placings of e.g. Bc4, Nbd2 and Ne1 (after ...e4) are offensively inferior to Be2, Nc3 and Nd2). Nevertheless, White still has a perfectly playable position since, as previously stated, Black's plan isn't particularly overwhelming.

On the other hand, if White wishes to prevent ...e4, then he has to advance e3–e4 himself. But this deflects support from d4, hence the prophylactic pawn move. Note that c3 isn't necessary if Black has played ...Nbd7. Some sample lines:

A:– **7 h3** Qe8 8 Bh2 e5 9 c3!? *(9 de de 10 e4 (10 0–0 e4) 10...Nh5 with the initiative — Botterill; 9 0–0 ed (9...e4!?) 10 ed Bf5=)* 9...e4 10 Ng1 (Δ Ne2) with a position of unbalanced equality.

B:– **7 0–0** Qe8 **8 c3** (Better is 8 e4 Bg4! 9 Qe1! *(9 c3 e5 10 de Nh5 11 Be3 Nxe5 12 Be2 Nxf3+ 13 Bxf3 Bxf3 14 Qxf3 Qb5 =+)* 9...e5 9 de Nh5 10 Be3 Nxe5 11 Nxe5 Qxe5, with only a very slight advantage to Black) **8...e5 9 Bg3**. We have transposed to Franklin—Ligterink, Aaronson Masters, London 1978. This continued 9...Qe7 10 h3 Kh8 11 b4 e4 12 Ne1 Nh5 13 Bh2 f5, and was eventually drawn. I prefer **9...Nh5! 10 Bh4** Kh8 Δ ...f5–f4, with the initiative.

In conclusion, I would strongly recommend to London system advocates the line 7 h3 Qe8 8 Bh2 e5 9 c3. The resulting positions are intricate, with everything left to play for.

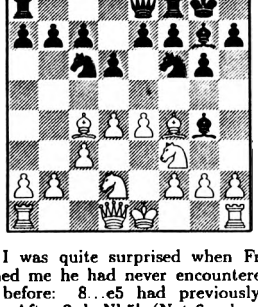
7. ... ♕d8–e8!

®, ⸗, ©Vujatović. Played with as much cool as a baby's bottom in a bucket of ice cold water.

8. e3–e4

8 0–0 e5 9 Bg3 Nh5! 10 Bh4 Kh8 Δ ...f5–f4.

8. ... ♗c8–g4!



TN. I was quite surprised when Franklin informed me he had never encountered this move before: 8...e5 had previously been played. After 9 de Nh5! *(Not 9...de 10 Be3 += when White has greater freedom of mobility)* 10 Be3 Nxe5 11 Nxe5 Qxe5 12 0–0 Nf6, the position is equal (eg. Franklin—Dueball, Great Britain — West Germany, 1971).

By pinning the knight, 8...Bg4 intends ...e5 under more favourable circumstances.

9. ♕d1–c2

There are two alternatives:

A:– **9 0–0** e5 10 de Nh5 11 Be3 *(11 Bg5 Nxe5 12 Be2 Nxf3+ 13 Bxf3 Bxf3 14 Qxf3 Qe5 =+)* 11...Nxe5 12 Be2 Nxf3+ 13 Bxf3 Bxf3 14 Qxf3 Qb5 with a slight advantage due to the possibility of attacking White's queenside pawns.

B:– **9 h3!** (This uninspiring move appears the only way to fully equalise!) 9...Bxf3 10 Qxf3 e5 11 de *(11 Be3? allows Black to exploit the king–queen opposition with 11...ed 12 cd d5 13 ed Nxd4 14 Qd1 Nf5∓)* 11...Nxe5=.

9. ... e7–e5

10. d4×e5

10 Be3 Bxf3 11 gf Nh5 gives a good sort of French the other way round.

10. ... ♘f6–h5

Lobotomy!

11. ♗f4–e3

Harriet Harman!

11. ... ♘c6×e5

Iced nipples!

12. ♗c4–e2?!

Better is 12 Nxe5 Qxe5 (to see the point, compare 12...Bxe5 13 Bh6 Bg7 14 Bxg7 with 12...Qe5 13 Bd4 Qg5 14 Bxg7 — Black's queen is actively developed). Black maintains a slight initiative due to his king-side activity.

12. ... f7–f5!

⸗, ∓. This move, when played in conjunction with ...Qe8, always guarantees a speedy

and aesthetically titillating victory. For further evidence, see Panchapagesan—Vujatović, *Dragon* 71, November 1989.

13. e4×f5

Other moves aren't any better:

A:– **13 h3** fe 14 hg ef 15 gh *(15 gf Nf4∓)* 15...fe 16 hg *(16 h6 Bh8∓)* 16...hg 17 Qb3+ Qf7 18 Kxe2 Ng4 19 Qxf7+ Rxf7. Black retains a clear advantage — bishop versus knight in an open endgame with an asymmetrical pawn structure.

B:– **13 Nxe5 Bxe2 14 Kxe2 Bxe5** exchanges some lumps but is still rather gloopy. 15 Qb3+ Kh8 16 Qxb7 Nf4+! 17 Bxf4 *(17 Kf1? Rb8 18 Qxc7 Qb5+ 19 Qc4 {19 Kg1 Ne2+ 20 Kf1 Ng3+ 21 Kg1 Qf1+ 22 Rxf1 Ne2#} 19...Qxb2 –+ eg. 20 Rb1?? Qxb1+ with mate to follow)* 17...Bxf4∓ *(with ...Bxd2 and ...Rb8 ideas)* 18 Nc4 Rb8 19 Qd5 Qxe4+ 20 Qxe4 fe∓.

C:– **13 Qb3+** Kh8

(i) **14 Nxe5** Bxe2∓ transposes to B.

(ii) 14 Qxb7 fe 15 Nxe5 *(15 Qxe4 Bf5∓; 15 Nxe4 Nxf3+ 16 gf Bxf3 17 Bxf3 Rxf3∓)* 15...Bxe2 16 Kxe2 Bxe5∓.

(iii) 14 ef Bxf5 *(14...gf Δ ...f4 is also good)* 15 Nxe5 *(15 0–0 Ng4∓)* 15...Bxe5 16 Bxh5 gh∓. The two bishops are a potent force to be reckoned with.

13. ... ♗g4×f5
14. ♕c2–b3+ ♗f5–e6

The b–pawn is not very inticing, but nevertheless Franklin unashamedly proceeds to ingurgitate it ...

15. ♕b3×b7

15 Qd1 Ng4 16 Bd4 *(16 Bg5 h6 17 Bh4 Nf4∓)* 16...Bxd4 17 cd Nf4 18 0–0 Bxa2∓ >. 15 Qc2 Ng4 is worse, since the bishop isn't protected by the queen.

15. ... ♘h5–f4
16. ♗e3×f4

After this, Black is winning. The best practical try is 16 Nxe5 Bxe5 *(Not 16...Nxe2?! 17 Nd3)* but Black still retains abundant compensation for the pawn, since White's centralised king prohibits the harmonious conjugation of his rooks. Play might continue 17 Bf3 *(17 Qxc7 Nxg2+ 18 Kd1 Nxe3+∓, or 18 Kf1? Nxe3+)* 17...Rb8 18 Qxc7 Nd3+ 19 Ke2 Nf4+!∓. Now that White is prohibited from castling, Black will effect ...Rxb2 with greater effect.

16. ... ♘e5–d3+

A pretty pirouette from our frisky equine friend.

17. ♔e1–f1

17 Bxd3?? Bd5+ wins queenie.

17. ... ♘d3×f4
18. ♖a1–e1 ♕e8–a4

Intending to brutally ravage Quentin Queenside.

19. ♕b7–a6

Offering an endgame.

19. ... ♕a4–c2

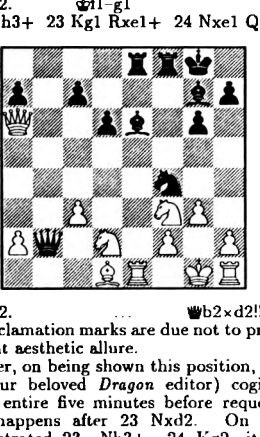
But as Mednis laboriously points out: "The key guideline for evaluating whether to continue in the middlegame rather than simplifying into a superior endgame is: *stay in the middlegame if you have a massive near-term superiority or your opponent has a massive immediate problem.*"

20. ♗e2–d1

Perhaps intending some future Rxe6 and Bb3.

20. ... ♕c2×b2
21. g2–g3 ♖a8–e8
22. ♔f1–g1

22 gf Bh3+ 23 Kg1 Rxe1+ 24 Nxe1 Qxd2.



22. ... ♕b2×d2!!

The exclamation marks are due not to profundity but aesthetic allure.

However, on being shown this position, Steve Rix (our beloved *Dragon* editor) cogitated for an entire five minutes before requesting what happens after 23 Nxd2. On being demonstrated 23...Nh3+ 24 Kg2, it took him a further minute to find the picturesque 24...Rxf2#. On viewing this, problemists will undoubtedly experience a vast multiplicity of rapturous orgasms on the ceiling. For this is a "pure" mate, whereby each of the king's flight squares is attacked only once (and without the participation of the queen too!).

"Yes! Yes! Yes! YES!" — Mark Thornton.

0–1

Franklin may have prolonged the struggle with 23 gf Qxf4 but, being a gentleman, he resigned before move 25.

Paignton The Town Red

by Steve Rix

The 41st annual Paignton chess congress attracted 52 entries to the F.I.D.E.-rated Premier, including IMs Keith Arkell and Gary Lane. The other sections included a Challengers (U170), a Minor, and various graded all-play-all tournaments, one of which ended in an eight-way tie on 3½/7 for first (or last) place.

The Premier was jointly won by Keith Arkell and Chris Baker. Baker started with 5/5 before losing to Arkell in the sixth round. Both won in Round 7 to tie on 6/7, although Arkell was awarded the trophy on tie-break.

Half a point back came the unrated Soviet Valentin Ivlev, taking third place all on his own, obtaining 5½/7 and a part-Elo of 2435.

My play in this tournament was most unimpressive. After blundering a pawn to Chris Baker in Round 1, I got some confidence back by beating the lowest-rated entrant to the section, which was promply shattered by another gratuitous pawn blunder to a not-particularly-deeply-concealed twin plan set by Mrs. Susan Arkelle. My yoyoing continued with a victory over the second-lowest entrant to the section, followed by a loss to D. O. Collier, the Bristol-based walrus, when I chose what appeared to be the simplest way to draw only to find that it cost a rook.

On 2/5 and due a White, I was expecting to play a comparative bunny, such as the third-lowest rated entrant to the section. This is what ensued:

□ **P. M. Gayson (2255)**
■ **S. J. L. Rix (1992)**
Alekhin's Defence Trumpets Line

1 e4 ♘f6 2 e5 ♘d5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 ♘b6 5 f4 de 6 fe c5 7 d5 e6 8 ♘c3 ed 9 cd c4
[See the February 1990 *Dragon* for a couple of Graham Burgess wins in this line (it's in the U.L. along with most of *Dragons* 16-77.]
10 ♘f3 ♗b4 11 ♗xc4 ♗xc3+ 12 bc ♘xc4 13 ♕a4+ ♘d7 14 ♕xc4 ♘b6 15 ♕d4
[At this point, I was 43 minutes up on the clock, which was just as well as I'd just been 'N'ed. 15 Qb5+ Qd7 16 Qxd7 Bxd7 17 d6 Rc8 is another line, suggested by Ree.]
15...♕xd5 16 ♗a3 ♗e6
[16...Qxd4 is puffier and possibly better, e.g. 17 cd Nc4 18 Bb4 a5 19 Bc3 O-O 20 O-O Be6 21 Rab1 Ne3 22 Rf2 Rfc8.]
17 ♕h4 ♕d8 18 ♕b4
[I was more worried about 18 Qg3, when I was intending 18...Qc7 19 Qxg7 O-O-O without really believing it. But Black appears to get good play for a pawn, e.g. 20 O-O Nc4 21 Bc1 Rhg8.]
18...♕c7 19 ♖d1 ♘d5 20 ♕b5+ ♕c6 21 ♕xc6 bc 22 ♗d6
[A pleasant surprise, but the alternatives were not too good, e.g. 22 Nd3 O-O-O 23 O-O Nf4.]
22...♘xc3 23 ♖c1 ♘b5 24 ♖xc6 ♘xd6 25 ♖xd6 ♗xa2 26 O-O O-O
[A pity, as if Black could have delayed castling until move 34, the World Record for the highest sum of the move numbers on which both players castled would have been equalled. It's currently 60, held by Yates—Alekhin, San Remo 1930, the two players castling on moves 34 and 26 respectively.]
27 ♖c1?
[Better was 27 Ra1 Bc4 28 Nd4 a6 29 Nc6 Re8 30 Ra5 △ Nb4xf6.]
27...a5 28 ♖c7? a4 29 ♘d4 a3
[A pawn advance reminiscent of the game M. Polgar — N. Regan, Eastbourne 1990, but with a different result.]
30 ♖c1 ♖fe8?
[30...g6 or 30...Be6 offered good winning chances.]
31 ♘b5 ♗e6 32 ♖a1 ♖a5
[Suddenly realising that 32...a2 33 Nc7 Rab8 34 Nxe8 offered fewer winning chances than I'd first thought. 32...a2 33 Nc7 Reb8 34 Nxa8 Rxa8 35 Rd2 h6 36 Kf2 Ra5 37 Re2 Rb5 38 Raxa2 Bxa2 39 Rxa2 Rxe5 would have been better than the game continuation, but White should easily hold the draw.]
33 ♘xa3 ♖ea8 34 ♖ad1 h6 35 ♘c2 ♖xe5 36 ♖d8+ ♖xd8 37 ♖xd8+ ♔h7 38 ♘d4 ♖d5 39 ♖xd5 ♗xd5
[Black might have had some hope if the minor pieces were exchanged.]
40 h4 ♔g6 41 ♘d2 ♗c4 42 ♘f4+ ♔f5 43 g3 ♔g4 44 ♔f2 g5 45 hg hg 46 ♘g2 ♗d3 47 ♘e3+ ♔h3 48 ♘d5 ♗e4 49 ♘e3 ½—½

Spirits temporarily raised, I returned in the evening to compete in the blitz conglomeration. After 5 rounds, I had only dropped one half point (to the Arkelle), but sadly the K v. K ending I obtained in the last round proved drawn. This left Mr. Arkell the sole possessor of 5½ points, after he survived various colour-rigging allegations. Rix, Arkelle and Ivlev shared second place.

The following day, I declined a draw offer at move 13 and put a piece *en prise* to a knight fork ten seconds later. It's a funny old game, Brian.

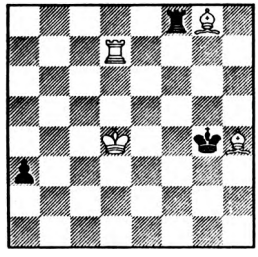
A further Mestellany

by Jonathan Mestel

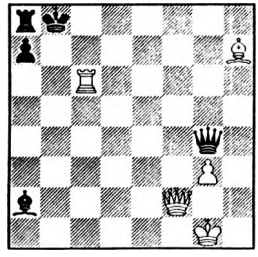
Last *Dragon*, I gave 6 puzzles in the hope that someone somewhere out there might be able to solve them all. These were they:

(1) Which player, now resident in Cambridge, has lost five games in a row in a UK GM tournament held south of the river Thames?

Answer: Myself, in the Hastings Premier 1973. Some people erroneously considered the answer to be one P.K. Wells who, as chance would have it, had recently both moved to Cambridge *and* lost five games in a row in a GM tournament. Fortunately, this took place at a venue North of the river Thames, and so that answer is disallowed. Incidentally, I consider it in execrable taste to draw attention to a recent disappointment by one of our finest players, and anyone who chose that answer should be ashamed. I apologise to Mr. Wells for any embarassment inadvertently caused. (But not for any caused deliberately.)

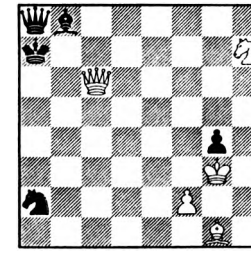


(2) White wins in this study by D. Petrov, reaching the position set last time after the introductory play 1 ♖d8 a2!; 2 ♗xa2 ♖f4+; 3 ♔e3 ♖a4; 4 ♗b3 ♖b4; A beautiful domination of the black ♖ is now achieved by 5 ♖d4+ ♖xd4; 6 ♗e7.

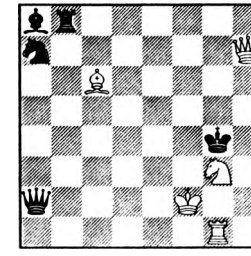


(3) White to mate in one: (anti-Kibitzer rules.) *(From last diagram)*

The problem here (by C. Sells) was to interchange all the pieces for other pieces consistently so that White could mate in one. There appear to be two solutions, namely



where White mates with 1 f4, and

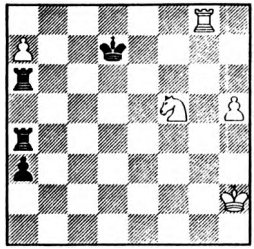


where 1 ♘e2 does, as regrettably they now say, the biz. Closer examination, however, reveals that the first position is illegal, as Black has no last move (Note that if the board is the wrong way up so that the black bishop has just promoted White has no mating move). So hard luck if you found the former.

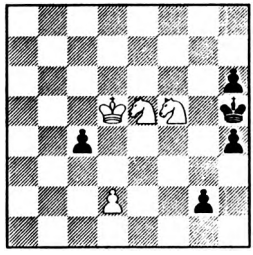
(4) White to play and draw.

(Diagram on next page)

This one is very difficult — and yet so easy. After 1 ♘h6!! White threatens perpetual check along the g-file. A human can see at a glance that the black king has nowhere to hide, but a computer wouldn't have a chance.



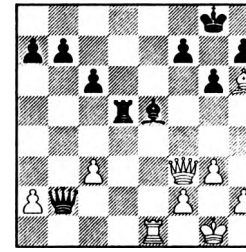
Of course, a computer has the advantage that it would consider *all* legal moves whereas most humans would never consider this move, even when a problem is labelled "White to play and draw in one move." It's easy to see that Black has nothing better, e.g. ...♖h4+ 2 ♔g3 ♖ha4 3 ♔h2!! This is the last move of a (very difficult) study which I am having trouble tracking down.



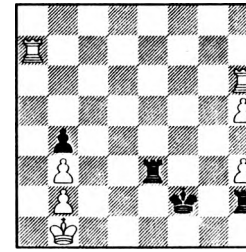
(5) White to play and draw.
This is a fine study by K.K. Behting, whose solution begins with one of the most amazing moves I've seen. Various attempts to stop the black pawns from queening don't quite work. So much so, that it is very difficult to consider a move which makes no attempt at all to do this, and even moves the white ♔ further away from the scene of action. 1 ♔c6!! g1=♕; 2 ♘xh4 and now Black has no good check, while 3 ♘hf3 is threatened, with a positional draw. After ...h3; 2 ♘g3+ ♔h4; 3 ♘e2 h2; 4 ♘f3+ ♔h3; 5 ♘xh2 White draws by one tempo.

(6) The queen–avoiding knight's tour starts with a white ♘b1 and a black ♕d4. The ♘ has to visit all vacant unattacked squares in a specified order: c1,e1,f1,h1,a2,c2 etc.
I was hoping to inspire some research as to how long it took people of different playing strengths to do, but maybe that was too much like hard work. I think it can be done in a minimum of 152 moves. Anyone beat that?

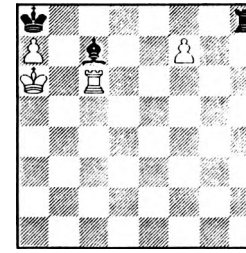
Well, those were quite hard. But with an entire summer, and with a few hints from me in moments of weakness, people just about managed them. So here are a few more:



(A) White to play. What result?
(B) Construct a 5–move game, beginning with 1 e4 and ending with 5 ..♘x♖ mate.
(C) And while you're at it, construct a 5–move game ending with a black promotion to a ♘ mate. [Clue: Black only moves pawns.]



(D) Black to play: what result?



(E) And finally, White to play, what result? The final position should be a mild surprise.

World Junior, Romania, August 1991

by Natasha Regan

I'm full of Romania! Grit in the Coke cans, yes, a lack of MacDonalds, but none of the anticipated sightseeing tours down sewers as offered in previous years. The morning of our departure from Heathrow saw the Russian coup which tinged the outward journey with that mixture of dread and excitement at the prospect of never returning, and whilst these fears were quickly allayed, the lack of English news on the trip meant we were never quite sure what was going on.

The party from England (and it was a party!?) consisted of players Graeme Buckley and myself, coached by Michael Hennigan. We played steamingly! An embarrassment to our nation! I had managed to get the team spirit off to a good start by inviting Grazzer to my birthday party (on 12th June, should you forget!!) and then forgetting to tell him where it was being held. He didn't mind so much; it had only been a three hour coach drive and he found a friend of a friend of his brother who let him crash on the floor!

Clackety Bucharest airport and we were greeted by a chessboard to take us to our coach. Five hours later, the hotel was welcome though Mike and Victor Frias (the American coach) soon weren't, as they noticed they were being ripped off (by about 6000%) and subsequently moved down the road. I shared a room with American Tanya Kibrik who had emigrated from Russia a year earlier. Enchanted by Western life she always looked stunning and was just so; indeed she put me straight on hair and clothes before any dances or meals out. Tanya's charm was recognised by a fair few men including Russian Victor Bologan (who led the tournament in the first week), and 'phone calls at various hours in the morning from a couple of American boyfriends were not uncommon.

At the opening ceremony we had a rather nice meal though were a bit timid in eating salad, fearing imminent death on contact with water. Then Campomanes made his customary speech about the event promoting world peace and we all felt very noble as we went back to our separate hotels, ours being the one housing the Americans and richer Europeans.

The competition was predictably strong; geography meant there was a greater ratio of East Europeans to South Americans than in Chile last year. The open (effectively boys') event was dominated by four Russians, and in the end Vladimir Akopian triumphed over Loonybin on tiebreak. (Whilst I remember, the latter wandered into the prizegiving about half an hour late looking very confused, then suddenly spotted his empty place on the rostrum. He leapt up and was given his medal, then stood there grinning insanely). The girls' event had one representative per country, except for Romania which had five! Anna-Maria Botsari from Greece took an early lead and was cruising it until she insisted on dragging a R+B v R ending out for six adjournment sessions. She collapsed with fatigue, lost two games in a row and drew the endgame. The winner was Yugoslav Nataša Bojković, the tournament favourite. I liked her first name, spotted her in discos, and she didn't keep asking for Pete's address! My own play was speckled. The pre-tournament strategy was a gamble: I would take up playing 1 e4 and throw in a few other first moves for variety when it seemed most amusing. This backfired not through lack of knowledge but experience, as when I reached decent positions I wasn't altogether sure what to do with them. In fact the tournament had the feel of being completely random. To illustrate I shall give one of the games I won, against a Romanian (I played 4 of them).

□ **R. Ignatescu (about 1800)**
■ **N. Regan (2195, oh dear!)**
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♘ge2
Here I remembered that Andrew Martin's book says Raymond Keene recommends this. That didn't help.
5...c6 6 ♘g3 ♘bd7 7 ♗e2 e5 8 d5 cd 9 cd h5
I'm never really sure why White puts horses on g3. Thought I'd hoof it away though.
10 ♗g5 h4
10 h4? Nh7 will practically prevent White castling as the h-pawn is so weak.
11 ♘f1 a6 12 a4 ♕b6?! 13 ♖a3
Hello, hello, hello? All the pieces are coming out in funny directions. This move prevents ...Qxb2, and maybe one day the rook will become a swinger!
13...♘c5 14 ♕b1 ♘g4
Despite being cheap (Δ 15...Nxf2) I don't like this move. White's bad bishop can be swapped off, and worse, the knight on f1 can quickly reach c4 where it is lethal.
15 ♗xg4 ♗xg4 16 ♘e3 ♗c8
This gets a tad embarrassing. After 16...Bd7 the immediate 17 b4 fails to 17...Qxb4 but 17 Nc4 is quite scary.

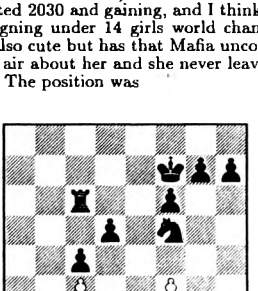
17 O–O h3
17...f6 does not win a piece, as White has Nc4.
18 g3 ♕c7 19 b4 f6 20 bc ♕xc5
21 ♗xf6!? ♗xf6
21...Qxa3 is well dodgy. Even a simple line like 22 Bxg7 Rh7 23 Bf6 Qxc3 24 Rc1 causes Black huge problems. If 24...Qa5 25 Nc4 will result in a win of material: 25...Qc7 26 Nb6.
22 ♖b3 O–O 23 ♖c1 ♕c7 24 ♘b5 ♕d8
25 ♘c7 ♖a7
It's looking bleak! I may as well give up my queen's rook for dead. I knew a quick mate was my only hope.
26 a5
So my chances of releasing the poor castle are zero.
26...♗g5 27 ♖bc3 ♕f6 28 ♕c2 ♕f3
29 ♖a1 ♗d7 30 ♖b1 ♗b5!?
Graeme came up with 30...Raa8!! in the post-mortem. Then 31 Nxa8 is met by Bb5, and is similar to the game; 31 Rxb7 loses to Bxe3. So the rook could have come to life!!
31 ♘e6? (31 ♘xb5 □) ♗xe3 32 ♘f4
32 fe Qf1 and mates.
32...ef 33 fxe3 fxe3 34 ♖c8 ♕f2+ 0–1

Before we move on to a higher quality of chess (a move by one of my opponents) I would like to give you some of the funnier events off the board that helped make the atmosphere in Marnaia. In Round 5, Tom Weidig of Luxembourg turned up to his game as usual. He must have noticed his room-mate didn't show but thought nothing of it and played out his moves. Meanwhile the poor Portuguese player was trying to call reception but the phone was broken, he shouted but nobody heard. He had been locked in whilst doing his preparation on the balcony and could not get out for the match. The next day, guess which two players were paired against each other, and, yes, revenge was meted out. As the end of the tournament neared, it was inevitable that some players were not happy with their results. We had all been catching colds and the pretty female doctor was often visited. She prescribed a particularly potent drug which you were not allowed to take before the game else you wouldn't play many moves. This stuff looked quite like sugar ... say no more.

I caught the foul cold about 3 days before the end, and the night before the last round was sneezing ceaselessly. This would not do — how was Tanya to get any sleep? I had to leave the room, and since Paul and Colm (the Welsh and Irish players) had long since lost their aspirations to become world champion, we decided to stay up and watch the sun rise. The scene was amazing — I'd love to draw it for you! The three of us were on the beach looking out onto the Black sea. Behind us were the hotels, tall blocks of concrete, and to the left, about a mile away, a single chimney with its permanent black smoke stretching out of view. The moon turned red into the sun to the chorus of 'Mr Tambourine Man'. Lucky moon!

The next day (or some day) we had strong coffees and turned up to the round at 9 o'clock, feeling wonderful. If I recall correctly, we all managed to draw. My game lasted 4¾ hours and involved defending a technical rook and pawn ending a pawn down. For some reason the others seemed to find this amusing.

I suppose I'd better give the other chess snippet I promised. The game from round 3 was against 13-year old Corina Peptan. I had already lost to her once ... in the dancing competition (random players were selected to copy some traditional Romanian folk-dancers bashing sticks in the air etc). Corina is from Romania, rated 2030 and gaining, and I think she's the reigning under 14 girls world champion. She's also cute but has that Mafia uncompromising air about her and she never leaves the board. The position was



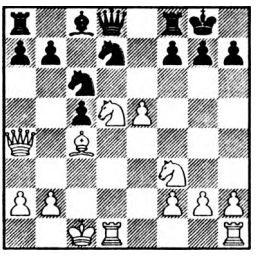
and each of us had less than 5 mins to make 9 moves before time control. She came back with
1...d4! 2 ♗xd4 ♘xd4 3 cd c3 4 ♖c2 ♔e6
5 ♔f2 ♔d5 6 ♔e3 ♔c4 and I can't hold on to the d-pawn. The game finished **7 d5 ♖d6**
8 ♔e4 f5+ 9 ♔e3 ♖xd5 10 ♔e2 ♖e5+
11 ♔d1 ♔d3 and now the most amazing blind spot **12 ♖d2+??** going for stalemate but **12...cd 0–1**
To cap it all the lady arbiter laughed at my last move and started kissing Corina.
I haven't yet told you about the cunning tricks of the money changers, the tradespeoples' attitudes to us: "How much?" — "For you, money no problem", and Graeme at the disco (all the girls were after him!). But the *Dragon* deadline has passed.

Like Visiting Venice Without A Trip In A Gondola

by G. K. Burgess

The title is borrowed from an advert in the Ålborg tourist info pamphlet for some clothes shop that clearly considered itself a gondola-equivalent, even though Ålborg is apparently the "little Paris of the North".

□ **G. K. Burgess (Sydøstfyn)**
■ **T. Christensen (Næstved)**
Århus Sommer 1991
Queen's Gambit Accepted
1 d4 d5 2 c4 dc
["Ekstra påwn."]
3 ♘f3 c5
[I was rather worried about 3...Nf6 4 Nc3 c6, when White is morally obliged to go a pawn down for nothing with 5 e4 b5 etc.]
4 d5 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6
[One of the pleasant things about living in Svendborg (>55°N) is that you can regard Rix as a real bloody Southerner. And there's a Taj Mahal.]
6 e4 ed 7 e5 ♘fd7
[Rather amusingly, a game of mine from the Bristol League concluded 7...d4?! 8 Bxc4 Nc6?? 9 ef dc 10 Qe2+ Kd7 11 Bf4 Qxf6 (N) 12 O-O-O+ Nd4 13 Bb5+ 1—0.]
8 ♗g5 ♗e7
[8...f6 9 ef gf has seen some action lately, e.g. 10 Qxd5 Qe7+ 11 Be3 Nb6 12 Qh5+ Qf7 13 Qh4 Be6 14 O-O-O Nc6 15 Ne4!? Nd7 *(15...Be7 16 Nd6+ Bxd6 17 Rxd6 Nd7 18 Rxe6+! Ftačnik)* 16 Be2 O-O-O 17 Rd2 Nb4 *(17...Be7 18 Nd6+, says Ftačnik. Then why not 17 Nd6+ ?)* 18 Nc3 Nd5 19 Nxd5 Bxd5 20 Rhd1 Be6 21 Rc2 Be7 22 Bxc4, and now instead of the inferior 22...Nb6? 23 Rxd8+ Rxd8 24 Bxe6+ Qxe6 25 Bxc5 ±/+- (Finegold—van der Werf, Groningen 1990) Ftačnik (who doesn't really look like a chipmunk) gives 22...Bxc4 23 Qxc4 Qxc4 24 Rxc4 +=.
John L. Watson's 10 Nxd5 gf 11 Qe2+ Kf7 12 O-O-O "deserves a test".]
9 ♗xe7 ♕xe7 10 ♘xd5 ♕d8 11 ♗xc4
[11 Qc2 has been trendy, but 11...b5 leads to a position as messy as I don't know what, whilst 11...Nxe5 12 Qe4 Be6 13 Qxe5 Qxd5 14 Qxg7 Rf8 15 Rd1 Qe4+ 16 Be2 Nd7 17 Ng5 Rfe8 18 Nxe6 Qxe6 19 Qxh7 O-O-O 20 Qc2 Rfe8 21 h4 Ne5 doesn't seem to give White anything, e.g. 22 O-O Rd4 23 Rxd4 cd 24 Rc1 b5 25 Qe4 Qb6! 26 Kf1 Re6! ∞ Brenninkmeijer—Zsu. Polgar, Wijk aan Zee 1990.
In case you're wondering, the idea of 11 Qc2 is to reach the highly advantageous 11 Bxc4 O-O?! 12 Qc2, while avoiding the irritating 11...Nc6! 12 Qc2 Qa5+.]
11...♘c6 12 ♕a4
[Not being Karpov, I felt 12 O-O O-O 13 Re1 Nb6 14 Nxb6 ab 15 Qxd8 Nxd8 16 a3 Nc6 17 Rad1, as in Karpov—Ehlvest, Belfort 1988, wouldn't give me much hope of winning.]
12...0-0
[12...Qa5+ 13 Qxa5 Nxa5 14 Bb5.]
13 0-0-0



[I went on the Boomerang at the Ålborg Tivoli. "Skandinaviens største forlystelse."]
13...♘d4
[See Rix's Informator 42 for 13...Ncxe5?]
14 ♖he1
[After some thought, I remembered the theory. If you want to see lots of fishes, crabs, starfish, sea anemones, eels, seals, etc., I would recommend the North Sea Museum (Nordsømuseet) in Hirtshals, despite the large number of German visitors. It was only there that I discovered that "Ålborg" means "Eel Castle", and that there was such a deep trench near the Southern coast of Norway.]
14...♘b6 15 ♘xb6 ♕xb6 16 ♘xd4 cd 17 ♕b3
[Due to my appalling memory, I was now a long way behind on the clock. I suppose that's one reason why the fjords have such steep sides. I'd been trying to make 17 Rxd4 Bf5 18 Rf4 Qh6 19 Re3 g6 20 Rh4 Qg5 work for White, but I'm not surprised I couldn't.]
17...♕c6
[TN. 17...Qc5 18 Qc2 b6 19 Kb1 g6 20 Rc1 Bf5 21 Bd3 Qxc2+ 22 Kxc2 Be6 23 a3 Rac8+ 24 Kd2 f6!? 25 ef Kf7 was Cvitan—Ehlvest, Vršac 1987; Ehlvest then gave 26 Rxc8 Rxc8

27 Re4 Rd8 28 Rf4 g5 29 Rf3 h6 30 Bc2 Bd5 31 Bb3 Bxb3 32 Rxb3 +=.
Tobias' move aims to avoid this type of disadvantage by shattering White's king-side.]
18 ♖xd4 ♗e6 19 ♔b1
[In the Spring of 1955, a Baleen Whale got beached on the island of Tåsinge, near Svendborg. Several attempts were made to float the huge whale — all in vain. One of the straying giants of the world's seas ended its last voyage in Svendborg.]
19...♕xg2 20 ♕g3
[Not very MACHO, but the only real try. Now Black should try 20...Qc6 (or maybe 20...Qh3) when after 21 Bd3 two natural moves fail pathetically:
(a) 21...Rad8?? 22 Bxh7+ Kxh7 23 Qh4+;
(b) 21...Qc5? 22 Bxh7+ Kxh7 23 Rh4+ Kg8 24 Qxg7+ Kxg7 25 Rg1 mating.]
20...♕xg3?! 21 hg +=/± ♖ad8 22 ♖ed1 ♗f5 23 ♔c1 ♖c8 24 ♔d2 g5?!
[In a difficult position, Black could not find a plan. Perhaps queen-side play with 24...b5, but this may only create weaknesses, e.g. 25 Bd3 Rfd8 26 Rxd8+ Rxd8 27 Ke3.]
25 ♔e3 h6 26 f4 ♔g7 27 ♗d3 ♗g4 28 ♖d2 ♖fe8
[Helps White to make progress, but what else?]
29 ♗b5 ♖e7 30 ♗d7 ♗xd7 31 ♖xd7 ♔f8
[In the *post mortem*, he tried to defend with 31...Rcc7 32 Rxc7 gf+ 33 gf Rxc7 34 f5, but White's pawns proved very strong.]
32 ♖7d6 ♔g7 33 ♔e4 ♖c1
[Mødspil!]
34 ♔f5 ♖g1
[I'd missed this, but a little O was lurking in the position.]
35 ♖h2! ♖xg3
[35...Re6 36 Rxe6 fe+ 37 Kxe6 Rxg3 38 f5.]
36 ♖dxh6 gf
[36...Re8 is pretty miserable, but avoids the immediate mate.]
37 ♖h8 1—0
["The big eel is NOT trapped in the wheel — it just likes lying like that."

The alert reader may point out that "Several attempts were made to float the huge whale — all in vain" is to some extent a tautology, since all but the last attempt were clearly in vain without any explicit confirmation being required. These people are recommended to replace "all" with "the last of which was sadly".
It should also be noted that Inf 49/720 is a bit misleading. The Hansen-Kasparov match was played at Valdemar Slot, which is in Svendborg Kommune but not in Svendborg itself (it is on Tåsinge in fact, quite close to Troense, where the beaching took place.]

What A Con This So-called Wimmin's Uprising Is

by G. K. Burgess

□ **G. K. Burgess (Sydøstfyn)**
■ **E. Guindy (Søndersø)**
Århus (8) 1991
1 d4 d5 2 c4
[Not afraid to relieve Black of her d-pawn.]
2...e6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 ♗e7 5 ♗g5 h6 6 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 7 ♕b3 c6 8 0-0-0
[Esmat, Fyn's, if not Denmark's, hat-wearing answer to Natasha, expected a more flaccid version of this line, with e3. But any self-respecting d-pawn aims to accumulate energy behind himself.]
8...♘d7 9 e4 ♘b6
[N, or indeed "Nyhed".]
10 h4 de 11 ♘xe4
[Bye bye Dick.]
11...♗e7
[A reptilian retreat. There are "Krybdyr og padder" at Vissenbjerg, which is on the way to Middelfart.]
12 ♗d3 ♕c7 13 ♗c2
[The main point of this move is to prevent 13...c5, of course.]
13...♗d7
[As far as I know, there aren't any "Skøre Teenage Ninja Skildpadder" at Vissenbjerg.]
14 ♘e5
[Strong Knight.]
14...0-0-0
[**Freddie** is defended tactically.]
15 c5
[NICE — Hodgson.]
15...♘d5 16 ♕a3 ♕b8
[16...Kb8 is more stubborn, answering 17 Nd6 med 17...Le8, but the plan of putting a horse on d6 & a tower on b7 is difficult to meet. especially without a d-pawn.]
17 ♘c4 ♗e8 18 ♘ed6+ ♔d7 19 ♘e5+
[**Freddie** is no longer tactically defended. Fortunately, this did not damage Esmat's WIM norm chances, since the very-clever-indeed pairing system had given her three unrated opponents.]
1—0

My Flexible Friend

by David S. Boyle

Sometimes when I get bored with trying to hack up the Caro or the Alekhine and want to play something a little different, I trot out the Réti–Smyslov Extended Fianchetto. I can already hear the groans and shouts of "That's what you play when you get bored?" but honestly it's not quite as bad as all that. Okay, so sometimes you just manœuvre around until your opponent resigns at adjournment, e.g.:

D. S. Boyle □ — ■ N. Barnaby
South Manchester II — Bolton III, Bd1
Wahltuch Trophy final 1st replay, 1991

1 ♘f3 ♘f6 2 g3 g6 3 b4 d5 4 ♗b2 ♗g7 5 ♗g2 0–0 6 0–0 a5 7 b5 a4 8 d3 [8 Na3 is better.] 8...c6 9 bc bc 10 ♘a3 ♘bd7 11 c4 e6 12 ♕c2 ♗b7 13 ♖ab1 ♕e7 14 ♖fc1 ♖fc8 15 ♕d2 ♗a6 16 cd cd 17 ♘d4 ♕d6 18 ♘ab5 ♗xb5 19 ♘xb5 ♖xc1+ 20 ♕xc1 ♕c5 21 ♕xc5 ♘xc5 22 ♗a3 ♘fd7 23 ♖c1 ♖b8 24 ♘c3 ♗f8 25 ♖b1 ♖xb1 26 ♘xb1 ♘a6 27 ♗b2 ♗g7 28 ♗c1 ♘c7 29 ♗f1 ♘b5 30 e3 ♘c3 31 ♘xc3 ♗xc3 32 d4 ♗b4 33 ♗b5 ♘b6 34 ♔f1 ♔f8 35 ♔e2 ♔e7 36 ♗d2 ♗xd2 37 ♔xd2 ♔d6 38 ♔c3 1—0

[Black needed to get 1½ points out of this adjournment, and decided he couldn't even get ½.]

Incidentally, my opponent in the game below only plays "Over The Board" once in a blue moon and has an OTB grade of 115. We met at the Sheffield congress 1991 and produced the following stunning game:

A. Sutton □ — ■ D. S. Boyle
Sicilian Defence, Four Knights

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cd 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6 6 ♗e2 ♗b4 7 ♗g5?! ♕a5 8 ♗xf6 ♗xc3+ 9 ♔f1 gf 10 bc ♕xc3 11 ♘b5 ♕e5 12 ♖b1 ♔e7 13 ♖b3 a6 14 ♘c3 b5 15 h4 ♘a5 16 ♘d5+ ed 17 ed ♘xb3 0—1

His postal grade is however much higher.

□ D. S. Boyle
■ A. Sutton (postal 190)
Réti–Smyslov Whatsit

1 ♘f3

[I'm only playing this because it's a postal game and I fancied a change from 1 e4.]

1...♘f6 2 g3 g6 3 b4

[So you think you're going to copy me and get a quick draw?]

3...♗g7 4 ♗b2

[The point of White's system is to play along the g3 lines of the King's Indian with increased queen-side play. If Black tries his standard plan on the king-side, he finds his dark-squared bishop neutralised by the Bb2, and should these pieces be exchanged his king position gets rather draughty.]

4...0–0 5 ♗g2 d6

[Black can also play ...c6 and ...d5, but White can push b5 and throw in c4 to smash open the a8–h1 diagonal.]

6 d3!

[According to Keene, who gives the game Stein—Rodriguez, Havana 1968, in his epic *Flank Openings*: 6 d3 Nbd7 7 Nbd2 e5 8 0–0 a5?! 9 a3 Nb6?! 10 c4 Bd7 11 b5 a4 12 Rc1 c5 13 bc Bxc6 14 c5! dc 15 Rxc5 Nfd7 16 Rc2 Qe7 17 Qa1 Rfe8 18 Rfc1 (1—0, 47).
It strikes me that Black deserved everything he got — ...Nb6 is a silly move, not that it stopped my opponent playing it.]

6...♘bd7 7 ♘bd2 c5?!

[This shouldn't be a move. Asking for trouble, it makes sure that b7 will be hit in the future, probably by a ♗ on g2 and a ♖ on b1.
The question here is whether to play bc or b5. In retrospect, bc might be the better of the two moves, as after ...dc White has the open b–file and a beckoning attack against c5 (which cannot be defended by ...b6, as this weakens the light squares too much. ...Nxc5 will probably give something similar after c4 and Nb3. Black has no counterplay in these lines by ...e5 and ...f5, as his centre then falls apart. After 8 bc Nxc5 9 c4 d5 10 cd (10 Nb3!?) Nxd5 11 Bxg7 Kxg7 12 Nb3, I much prefer White, who after castling will have two open files for his rooks, a better bishop, the safer king and the easier game to play.
However, of course, all the above is academic, as I played b5.]

8 b5 ♘b6

[I played b5 because b6 looked a silly square for the horse and I was looking for a reversed Benoni/King's Indian position with b5 already played.]

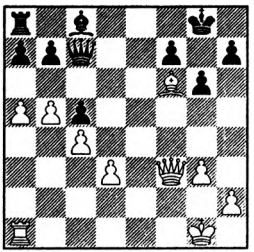
9 a4

[9 c4 may be better, or may just be interesting.]

9...♕c7?!

[This I just don't understand. After 9...a5, both taking the pawn *en passant* or leaving it allows Black to pressurise the a4 pawn, although the ♘b6 will be tied up and again b7 will be a target.

9...Bg4 was another reasonable try here.]
10 a5 ♘bd7
[On d5 the knight is just too exposed.]
11 0–0?!
[Played without thinking (Is this possible in a postal game? See Jon Wilson's *Bird In The Hand* article in the June 1991 *Dragon* for further details). Better is 11 c4, as after ...d5 12 cd Nxd5 13 Bxg7 Kxg7, White's queen-side play is overwhelming.]
11...d5
[On 11...Nd5 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 Nb1(!) stops all Black's play dead.]
12 c4
[To prevent ...c4.]
12...d4 13 e3
[White can also play on the queen-side with Ra2, Qa1, Rb1, Nb3 and a6, followed by opening up the centre with a dark–squared battery already in place. However, playing a reversed Modern Benoni ± tempi up seemed like a good idea.
Black can now exchange to try and relieve the pressure. Sadly, it doesn't work.]
13...de 14 fe ♘g4
[Condemned by my opponent after the game, but what else is there?]
15 ♗xg7 ♘xe3 16 ♕e2 ♘xf1 17 ♗xf8 ♘xd2 18 ♗xe7 ♘xf3+ 19 ♗xf3 ♘e5 20 ♗f6 ♘xf3+ 21 ♕xf3



[The above seven moves were played mainly by multiple conditionals and only took three actual "sendings".
When the smoke clears, White's advantage is obvious. Black's king position is weak, White's queen dominates the h1–a8 diagonal, White's queen-side pawns will break through and, at move 21, he has a lead in development. The backward d–pawn is not a problem, as d8 is safely in White's hands.
White's opening strategy has succeeded without a doubt. The phrase "matter of technique" springs to mind.]
21...♗f5 22 a6! ♖b8 23 ab ♖xb7
[23...Qxb7 allows 24 Qe3 Δ Qxc5 and Qh6 (Xg7). Now Qe3 can be met by ...Qc8 and ...Qf8 if need be.]
24 g4! ♗e6
[Black's weak pawns now spell defeat in any endgame, as ...Bxg4 at any point can be met by Kf2 defending d3 before the bishop can get to it.]
25 ♖a6
[Δ Rc6. If ...Rb6, Qa8 exchanges to the endgame mentioned above.]
25...♕c8 26 ♕f4
[26 Be5! (!!! according to Mr P. Garner, future Trinity Mathmo, whose suggestion it was) is also winning. If Black tries to run with ...Kf8, after Qf6, Qh8+, Rd6+ and Rc6+ everything drops off.
Unfortunately, I didn't see Be5 at the time, because I was concentrating on the plan used in the game and Qh6 ideas.]
26...♕f8?
[In a horrible position, Black misses White's next, expecting Be5 when ...Qe7 holds on. ...Rd7 is much better, although it won't save him from Be5 and Qf6.]
27 ♗c3!
[Plan. 27 Bb2 and 27 Ba1!! (guarding b0) also win in the same manner.]
27...h5
[The only other way to stop mate in two is ...f6, whereupon Rxe6 leaves White a piece up with an attack.]
28 ♕f6
[Winning at least a rook.]
28...♕h6
[If 28...Kh7 29 Rxe6 hg 30 Re8!!, or 29...Rb7 30 Re7, or if 29...Rb6 30 Re8!! Rxf6 31 Rxf8 Kg7 32 Rc8 and 33 Rc6 wins the rook.]
29 g5 **1—0**
[Threatening lots of mates, e.g. 29...Qh7 30 Qd8#. I did not bother offering the conditionals, and not surprisingly my opponent resigned.]

Le 6ème Open International de la Ville d'Orange

by Phil Crocker

Quite a pithy description really, though maybe I should expatiate a little. It was *open* — there were around 200 players ranging from near beginners to international masters. It was *international* — players came from all over Europe and beyond. And it was in the town of *Orange*, which is a pleasantly unspoilt town in the south of France, complete with Roman arch and amphitheatre.

But what the tournament advert didn't mention was that it was also very hot and humid. It also didn't mention that the accommodation consisted of a series of dormitories in a nunnery. And it only takes a couple of Frenchmen who haven't washed for a week to stink out a dormitory or tournament hall.

The battle for first place was a fairly open contest. Jean-Marc Degraeve (2450, a talented local junior), Alberto David (an LSE philosophy student from Luxembourg) and Parik Stefanov (a member of the Romanian blitz mafia) eventually tied on 7½/9.

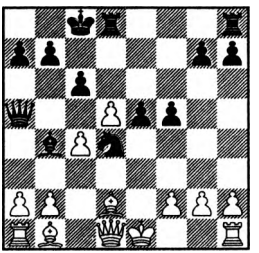
I finished on 6/9, losing only against IM Stefanov. In the final round, I needed only to lose to someone rated 2220+ to gain my second part-Elo. The computer paired me with WIM Céline Roos (2165) who I beat in an inferior ending. I was about to celebrate a 2385 part score when my opponent told me she didn't count. But she may just have been annoyed that I had illegally adjusted her h-pawn on move 21 ...

The only other Cambridge representative was Jim Totty, who played only unrated players. With White, he scored an impressive 4½/5 with a d4, Nf3, Bg5, e3, c3, Bd3, Qc2, O-O-O, h4, h5, random sac on h5 or g6, mate strategy against King's Fianchetto systems. As Black, using the French and Tarrasch, he managed only one draw. He reliably informs me that his 5/9 was a 161 grading performance. One theory to explain this imbalance with the white and black pieces is that he had Black on days when the nuns needed "help with the washing".

All in all, Orange was a good tournament with excellent sponsors. At the closing ceremony, everyone got free nougat; I won a bottle of wine as a consolation for just missing some prize money, and Jim walked out of the Town Hall with a whole crate ...

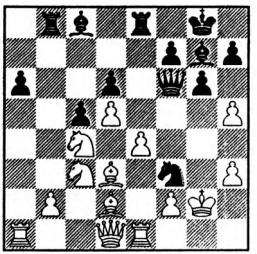
Some games:

□ **G. Candea (2325. FM)** **Rd 2**
■ **P. Crocker (1960)**
Alekhin's Defence
1 e4 ♘f6 2 ♘c3
[White played this in every Alekhin I played in France.]
2...d5 3 ed ♘xd5 4 ♘xd5 ♕xd5 5 d4 ♘c6 6 ♘f3 ♗g4 7 ♗e2 0–0–0 8 c3 e5 9 c4?
[The President of the Romanian Chess Federation forgets basic opening principles. Better was 9 O-O.]
9...♕a5+ 10 ♗d2 ♗b4 11 d5 ♗xf3! 12 ♗xf3 ♘d4 13 ♗e4 f5 14 ♗b1 c6
[Winning a pawn and the game. White is in virtual zugzwang.]



15 ♕c1 ♗xd2+ 16 ♕xd2 ♕xd2+ 17 ♔xd2 cd 18 cd ♖xd5 19 ♖c1+ ♔d7
[The rest is technique. It may be instructive, but it's certainly not as exciting as the next game.]
20 ♔e1 ♖c8 21 ♖d1 ♔d6 22 a4 ♘c2+ 23 ♗xc2 ♖xc2 24 b4 ♖b2 25 ♖xd5+ ♔xd5 26 b5 ♖b4 27 ♖d1+ ♔e6 28 ♖a1 e4 29 ♖a2 g5 30 h3 f4 31 ♖a1 ♔e5 32 ♖c1 ♖xa4 33 ♖c7 ♖a1+ 34 ♔e2 ♖a2+ 35 ♔e1 b6 36 ♖xh7 ♖a1+ 37 ♔e2 ♖a1+ 38 ♔e1 ♖a5 39 ♖h5 ♔f6 40 ♖h7 ♖xb5 41 ♖a7 ♖b1+ 42 ♔e2 ♖b2+ 43 ♔e1 b5 44 ♖b7 b4 45 ♖b6+ ♔e5 46 ♖b5+ ♔d4
[The passed b-pawn, supported by the king, decides the game.]
47 ♖xg5 b3 48 ♖b5 ♔c4 49 ♖b8 ♖c2 50 ♖c8+ ♔d3 51 ♖d8+ ♔c3 52 ♖c8+ ♔b2 53 ♖b8 ♖a2 54 ♖a8+ ♔b1 55 ♖a4 f3 56 g4 b2 57 g5 ♔c1 58 ♖b4 ♖c6 59 h4 b1=♕ 60 ♖xb1+ ♔xb1 61 ♔d2 ♖c2+ 62 ♔e3 ♖e2+ 63 ♔f4 ♖xf2 64 ♔xe4 ♖h2 65 ♔xf3 ♖xh4 66 ♔g3 ♖d4 0–1

□ **P. J. Crocker (1960)** **Rd 3**
■ **P. Stefanov (2350, IM)**
Benoni
1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 c4 c5 4 d5 ♗g7 5 ♘c3 d6 6 e4 0–0 7 ♗e2 ♘a6
[Apparently, this is theory. I thought he was just barrying.]
8 0–0 ♘c7 9 a4 e6 10 ♖e1
[In the *post mortem*, Stefanov seemed to give all my moves exclamation marks. This didn't fit in well with getting mated in 25 moves. However, White's 10th and 11th moves may deserve such puncuation. The aim is to avoid dull, if equal, positions resulting from meeting ...ed by ed.]
10...♖e8 11 ♗f1 ed 12 cd a6 13 h3 ♖b8 14 a5?!
[I think 14 Bf4 is better. In the bulletin, Stefanov gave 14 Bf4 b5 15 ab ab 16 e5 de 17 Bxe5 b4 18 d6 Ne6 19 d7 Nxd7 20 Bxb8 bc −+. However, 18 Na4 looks okay for White.]
14...b5 15 ab ♖xb6 16 ♘d2 ♘b5 17 ♘c4 ♖b8 18 ♗d3
[18 Qd3 leaves the white k–side more secure.]
18...♘h5 19 ♗d2 ♘d4 20 g4?!
[I felt a real bunny playing this. But otherwise Black gets king-side play without any immediate need to sacrifice.]
20...♕f6
[Of course not 20...Nf6? 21 Bf4.]
21 gh ♘f3+ 22 ♔g2?



[22 Kh1.]
22...♗xh3+!! 23 ♔h1
[23 Kxh3 Qh4+ 24 Kg2 Qg4+ mates.]
23...♗g4 24 ♕b1 ♕h4+ 25 ♔g2 ♕h3#

□ **J. T. Totty**
■ **J–B. Franken**
Totbits' hack line
1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 ♗g5 ♗g7 4 e3 0–0 5 ♘bd2 d6 6 c3 a5 7 ♗d3 ♘bd7 8 ♕c2 c6 9 0–0–0 b5 10 h4 b4 11 h5 bc 12 bc ♖e8 13 hg fg 14 ♗h6 ♗a6 15 ♗xg6 ♘f8 16 ♗xe8 ♕xe8 17 ♗xg7 ♔xg7 18 ♖h3 c5 19 ♘e4 cd 20 ed ♘8d7 21 ♘eg5 ♕g6 22 ♘e6+ ♔f7 23 ♘fg5 ♔g8 24 ♕xg6+ hg 25 ♖dh1 1—0

□ **Y. Smit**
■ **Totbits**
Classical French
1 d4 d5 2 ♘c3 ♘f6 3 e4 e6
[Wimping out of the gambit.]
4 e5 ♘fd7 5 f4 c5 6 ♘f3 ♕b6 7 ♗e3 ♘c6 8 ♘a4 ♕a5 9 c3 cd 10 b4 ♗xb4??
[Oh dear. Jim's forgotten his theory. Analysis of 10...Nxb4 can be found in any good copy of Suetin's book on the French.
(The editors' latest information is that Jim decided which piece he was going to use to take on b4 by tossing a coin.)]
11 cb ♘xb4 12 ♗d2 b5 13 a3 ♕xa4 14 ♕xa4 ba 15 ♗xb4 a5 16 ♗d6 ♗a6 17 ♗xa6 ♖xa6 18 ♖c1 ♖a8 19 ♘xd4 ♘b6 20 ♖c7 ♘c4 21 ♖e7+ ♔d8 1–0

□ **J. T. Totty**
■ **F. Crapis**
Totbits' hack line
1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 ♗g5 ♗g7 4 e3 0–0 5 ♘bd2 d6 6 c3 ♘bd7 7 ♕c2 e5 8 ♗d3 ♕e8® 9 0–0–0 ♘g4 10 ♖df1 ♘b6 11 h3 ♘h6 12 g4 a5 13 ♗xh6 ♗xh6 14 g5 ♗g7 15 h4 ♗g4 16 ♘h2 ♗h5 17 f3 ed 18 ed ♕d7 19 ♖fg1 ♘d5 20 ♘e4 ♖c8 21 ♘g4 c5 22 dc ♗xg4 23 fg ♘e3 24 ♕e2 ♘d5 25 ♗b5 ♕e6 26 cd ♔h8 27 ♖d1 ♘f4 28 ♕f3 ♕xa2 29 ♕xf4 a4 30 ♘f6 a3 31 ♕b4 ♕e6 32 ba ♕e3+ 33 ♔b2 ♗xf6 34 gf ♕f2 35 ♔b3 ♕xf6 36 g5 ♕e6+ 37 ♗c4 ♕e5 38 ♖he1 ♕g3 39 d7 ♖a8 40 ♕xf8+ ♖xf8 41 ♖e8 b5 42 ♖xf8+ ♔g7 43 d8=♕ bc 44 ♔xc4 ♕f4+ 45 ♔b3 1–0

□ **A. Cooper (Cambridge, 169)**
■ **A. Mack (Nottingham, 187)**
BUPCA 1991; Queen's Indian
1 d4 e6 2 c4 ♘f6 3 ♘f3 b6 4 a3 ♗a6 5 ♕c2 ♗b7 6 ♗g5 c5 7 d5 ed 8 cd ♗xd5 9 ♘c3 ♗b7 10 e4 ♗e7 11 ♖d1 O–O 12 ♗c4 h6 13 ♗f4 a6 14 a4 b5 15 ab ab 16 ♗xb5 ♕a5 17 O–O ♘xe4 18 ♘xe4 ♕xb5 19 ♗d6 ♗xd6 20 ♘xd6 ♕c6 21 ♖fe1 ♘a6 22 ♕f5 ♘b4 23 ♖e7 ♘d5 24 ♖xd7 g6 25 ♕h3 ♘f4 26 ♕g4 ♘e2+ 27 ♔f1 h5 28 ♘e5 hg 29 ♘xc6 ♗xc6 30 ♖c7 ♘d4 31 ♖xd4 cd 32 ♖xc6 ♖ab8 33 ♖c2 ♖b3 34 ♖d2 d3 35 ♘e4 ♖c8 36 ♘c3 ♖cxc3 37 bc ♖b1+ 0–1

2300 — Chess At The Top
Val Thorens 1991

Report by Jim Totty

The English abroad are a funny lot. I mean what other nation could produce the likes of Ian Gooding, scaling the Alps with nothing but a suitcase full of silk pyjamas or Mark Thornton, happy to negotiate with the locals in his fluent English for croissants and cassoulet. Yes, three years on, CUCC were once more heading south into the mountains for sun, snow and chess.

After a wild week in Orange with the Blessed Sisters of the Holy Assumption, Phil Crocker and I pressed onwards and upwards to the pastures and concrete that are Val Thorens. The others were also arriving fresh from profound spiritual experiences — Mark at a Burgundian monastery, and Ian after a night on a French sleeper train. Having hired an apartment for a handful of peanuts, we were expecting to find the cockroaches doing the rumba across the floor, but everything was clean and comfortable. A quick hand of rummy settled the sleeping arrangements, and we were off and away up the slopes. On one unforgettable day Phil and I climbed through Alpine meadows full of Gentians and Primulas to reach the foot of the glacier where we sat on the warm rocks and had lunch by an ice-covered lake, tinnies cooling in the snow beside us.

Towards the end of the first week, however, it became apparent that unfeasibly large numbers of IM's were riding into town. We turned up for the registration to find 1 GM, 17 IM's, 4 FM's, 4 WIM's, and WFM among 36 ELO rated players. Ian got dumped in the open section because he couldn't prove that he was under 1800, and by the end of the sixth round, bets were out on whether he would trouble the scorers at all.

The first round was marked by a violent thunderstorm which fused the lights just before the time control. Phil was left groping in the dark against WIM Julia Lebel-Arias, and by the time his board had been moved nearer the window, his material advantage had vanished into the night. Yours truly smoothly won a queen off her husband and still failed to win.

In the last round, of the top boards, only IM Arkady Rotshtein was able to force a win to clinch first prize with 7½/9. The Cambridge boys done the biz, with Mark and Phil finishing on 4½, myself on 3½ and Ian defying the odds and a couple of unspeakably crap players to get 3. Mark and Phil were cheated out of part ELOs by the sort of disgracefully impartial pairing system that would never be allowed in this country.

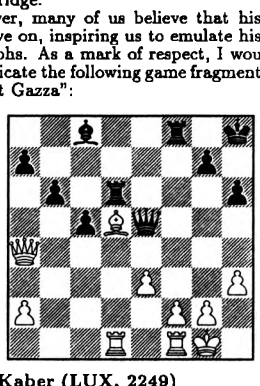
The following morning, Jacques Brethe squeezed twelve of us into a nine-seater minibus and we screamed down the hairpin bends to catch the Chambery train. Compared to this, the rest of the journey was blissfully quiet, brightened only by Mark's apprehension for fare evasion by the SNCF and an epic struggle between Ian and his suitcase around Dulwich. Many thanks must go to Phil for his smooth business French, to Ian for that vile sauerkraut the silly ☺*?!!‡ brought back from the supermarket, and to Mark for letting me plagiarize large chunks of his draft report. See you there next year.

(An assortment of games follows)

Tribute To Gary Callan

from Mark Thornton

I am sure that the whole Club will be sad to know that this great tactical genius, producer of so many marvellous Plans, has now left Cambridge.
However, many of us believe that his spirit will live on, inspiring us to emulate his many triumphs. As a mark of respect, I would like to dedicate the following game fragment to the "Great Gazza":



□ R. Kaber (LUX, 2249)
■ M. Thornton (ENG, 2050)
Val Thorens (1) 1991
White to move
30 e4?

[News of Plan 2 obviously hasn't reached Luxembourg yet!]

30...♗xh3!!!!!

[An echo of the immortal game Housden—Callan, EACU Congress (5), Cambridge 1991. See *Dragon*, June 1991.]

31 f4!

[31 gh?? Rg6+ 32 Kh1 Rf3 mates.]

31...♕h5 32 ♖d3?

[32 gh?? Rg6+ 33 Kf2 Rxf4+, when either 34 Ke1 Rxf1+ 35 Kxf1 Qf3+ 36 Ke1 Qe3+ 37 Kf1 Rg1# or 34 Ke3 Qxh3+! 35 Kxf4 Qg3+ 36 Kf5 Rf6#. However 32 f5! would limit White's losses to a pawn.]

32...♖g6 33 e5 ♗xg2 34 ♗xg2 ♖xg2+? 35 ♔xg2 ♕e2+ 36 ♖f2 ♕xd3

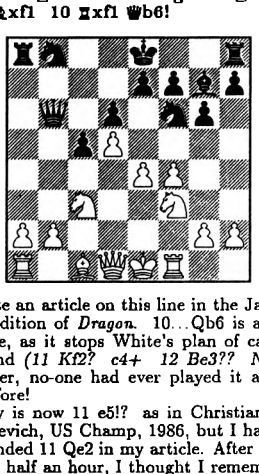
[34...Qe2! would have been much better, but Black still won fairly easily.] **(0–1, 48)**

Bashing The Benko II Revisited

by Mark Thornton

□ M. H. Thornton (ENG, 2064)
■ O. Bouverot (FRA, 2070)
Val Thorens (7) 1991
Benko Gambit

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 bc a6 5 ba ♗xa6 6 ♘c3 d6 7 f4! g6 8 ♘f3 ♗g7 9 e4 ♗xf1 10 ♖xf1 ♕b6!



[I wrote an article on this line in the January 1989 edition of *Dragon*. 10...Qb6 is a critical line, as it stops White's plan of castling by hand *(11 Kf2? c4+ 12 Be3?? Ng4+)*. However, no-one had ever played it against me before!

Theory is now 11 e5!? as in Christiansen—D.Gurevich, US Champ, 1986, but I had recommended 11 Qe2 in my article. After thinking for half an hour, I thought I remembered why, so I played it.]

11 ♕e2 ♕b4?!

[He thought for 35 minutes over this reply, which I had never even considered! In the *post mortem*, we found that both of us had looked hard at 11...Qa6, e.g. 12 Nb5 0–0 13 a4 e6. We then analysed 14 de fe 15 Ng5!? for ages, but came to no conclusion.

The idea behind 11...Qb4 is to take away the f4 square from the bishop after a future e5 de; fe Ng4. If White kicks the queen with a3, it goes back to b8, where it becomes yet another attacker of the e5 pawn. However, he spent a tempo last move stopping Kf2 and he's now spent one forcing me to play it (because of the threat of ...Nxe4). It's perhaps not surprising that such inconsistency doesn't work out well.]

12 ♔f2 0–0 13 ♔g1 ♘bd7 14 e5!

[I spent another ½-hour calculating this one, but had considerably more success at predicting his next moves than I had on move 11.]

14...de 15 fe ♘g4 16 a3 ♕b8 17 ♗f4!

[In my Jan '89 article, there were a lot of lines where White returned the b–pawn in order to gain tempi for his attack. Here, I return the e–pawn, with gain of tempo, and with the long–term idea of winning the e7–pawn and queening my d–pawn.

Olivier had expected 17 e6!?, which I had rejected intuitively as too loosening. Subsequent detailed analysis has convinced me that I was right, e.g. 17 e6 Nb6 *(Δ ...f5, ...Nf6)* 18 h4 Nh6 *(Δ ...Nf5 — 18...Nf6? 19 ef+ Δ Ng5±)* 19 g4 *(severely restricting the h6 knight)* 19...Qb7 20 Rd1 Rad8 21 Qe4 fe 22 Qxe6+ ♔h8. It's very hard for White to develop his queen-side in this variation, whereas 17 Bf4! achieves this aim in two moves.]

17...♘gxe5

[17...Ndxe5? 18 Nxe5 Nxe5 19 Rae1 f6 20 Bxe5 fe 21 Rxf8+ ± (Δ Ne4). Unusually, Black's g7 bishop has become "bad" in this line.]

18 ♖ael ♘xf3+ 19 ♖xf3 ♕b7 20 ♕xe7

[My third long think of the game. When I played 14 e5, I hadn't been able to work out if this was good or not, but I knew I had 20 Bc1 in reserve with a cosy position. In fact, 20 Qxe7 is very close to a forced win.]

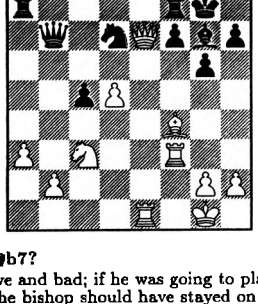
(Next Diagram)

20...♗d4+?

[It's best to delay this check until it's *really* needed.]

21 ♔h1 ♕xb2 22 ♗c1

[22 Rb1? Rae8! (the point of 20...Bd4+), but that wasn't part of my plan, so I wasn't worried.]



22...♕b7?

[Passive and bad; if he was going to play this way, the bishop should have stayed on g7. A better try was 22...Qc2, although it seems this is also inadequate, i.e. 23 Qxd7 Bxc3 24 Ref1 (Δ Rxf7) 24...Rad8 25 Qa7 Ra8 26 Qxc5 (now we see the disadvantage of checking too early!) 26...Rac8 27 Rxf7!! mating. If Black had kept the check in reserve until after he'd captured on c3, then the bishop would have ended up on d4, protecting the c5 pawn. Still, after 24...Rad8 25 Qb7 Rb8 26 Qc6, White has a large advantage: it's hard to see how Black can sensibly prevent the advance of the d-pawn, causing havoc.]

23 ♗h6 ♗xc3

[23...Bg7 24 Bxg7 Kxg7 25 Ref1 and f7 caves in. Hence, he tried to placate me with the offer of an exchange, but I was far more interested in trying to mate him on the dark squares.]

24 ♖xc3! ♖fd8

[After 24...Qxd5, 25 R3c1 is very hard to meet, but it's probably better than the text.]

25 d6 ♕d5 26 ♖ce3 ♘f8 27 ♕f6 ♕d4 28 ♖e5 ♘e6 29 ♖f1 ♖d7 30 ♖xe6! 1–0

[A thematic dark-square finish. My best game for some considerable time.]

"You Can Go On For Long Time"

by Mark Thornton

As I was within ½-point of a part-score Elo, I actually bothered to do some homework on my next opponent before the game. What I discovered was depressing — Mr. Schwartzmann was a c4, g3, b3 merchant, who avoided complications whenever possible and had a penchant for making people suffer in long endgames. For instance, he had tried for over 80 moves to press home a miniscule advantage against IM Ciolac (2445), although he did not succeed. I formed a mental picture of my opponent as a boring forty year old, and could see that an interesting game was unlikely. When I got to the board, I was surprised to discover that my opponent was just 14 years old (don't juniors play attacking chess any more?). In response to my questions, he answered in perfect English that he only had two IM norms and that he had no chance of one here. Anyway, his coach had told him not to aim for an IM norm here, but "to play as many moves as possible". Since this round was to be played to a finish, I made a mental note to tell my flatmates not to wait up for me. Fortunately this proved to be unnecessary, though for all the wrong reasons.

□ **G. Schwartzmann (ROM, FM, 2360)**
■ **M. H. Thornton (ENG, 2064)**
Val Thorens (8) 1991

1 c4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 e6 3 g3 b6 4 ♗g2 ♗b7 5 0–0 ♗e7 6 ♘c3 0–0 7 b3

[Schwartzmann — Ciolac (mentioned above) went 7 d4 Ne4, transposing into a mainline Queen's Indian Defence. I was happy to repeat this, as I'd played the line in my youth and because Ciolac clearly gained equality from the opening. Perhaps this was why Gabriel deviated.]

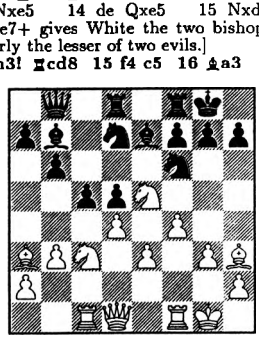
7...d5 8 e3 ♘d7?!

[A bit weedy. 8...c5 & 9...Nc6 was more direct.]

9 ♗b2 c6 10 d4 ♕c7 11 ♖c1 ♖ac8 12 cd ed 13 ♘e5! ♕b8?

[13...Nxe5 14 de Qxe5 15 Nxd5 Qe6 16 Nxe7+ gives White the two bishops, but is clearly the lesser of two evils.]

14 ♗h3! ♖cd8 15 f4 c5 16 ♗a3



[I groaned inwardly when this move was played. The two "unfianchettoed" bishops seem to exert great pressure on my position. But then I began thinking about how I could use the same motif, and this lead me to the brilliant 16...b5!.]

16...b5! 17 ♘xb5 ♘xe5 18 fe ♘e4 19 dc!

[White correctly resolves to sac the exchange after 19...Ba6 20 Nd6! with huge compensation. 19 Nc3 Nxc3 20 Rxc3 cd 21 Bxe7 dc is approximately equal.]
19...♕xe5
[Refusing the exchange and threatening to force a draw by 20...Nxg3 21 hg Qxg3 22 Bg2 Qxe3+ 23 Kh1 Qh6+ 24 Kg1 Qe3+ etc. White's next is probably a mistake, but it's hard to suggest an alternative move if he's playing for a win.]
20 ♖f5? ♕e6
[Amusingly, Black now threatens to use both his R3 squares to good effect.]
21 ♘d4 ♕h6 22 ♔g2 ♕xe3?
[Of course, I saw 22...Bc8, when if 23 Rh5 Bxh3+ 24 Rxh3 Qxh3+ wins an exchange, but I didn't think 23...Bxf5 was much of a threat, as 24 Nxf5 seems to win. However, the winning threat is actually ...g6!. White has a tempo to stop it, but seems unable to do anything about it.
The move played allows White the time he needs to re–establish control of the position.]
23 ♖f3 ♕g5 24 ♖c2!
[A move whose point I completely overlooked (see move 26).]
24...♗c8 25 ♘f5 ♗e6 26 ♗c1 ♕f6 27 ♘h6+ gh 28 ♖xf6 ♗xh3+ 29 ♔xh3 ♗xf6 30 ♗xh6 1–0
[Gabriel was upset that I resigned here ("You can go on for long time") but I'd had enough. He then declined the offer of a *post mortem*, as he had an adjourned game to play on that evening ...]

An Ex–Presidential Victory

by Phil Crocker

□ **P. J. Crocker (1960)**
■ **B. Thiriet (2080)**
Val Thorens (3) 1991
1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 c4 c5 4 d5 b5 5 ♕c2 d6 6 e4 ♗g7 7 cb
[White now has a superior Benko accepted. Maybe 6...bc.]
7...a6 8 ♘c3 0–0 9 a4 ♘bd7 10 ♗e2 ab 11 ♗xb5 ♗a6 12 0–0 e6 13 ♗f4 e5 14 ♗c1
[The position of the pawn on e5 rather than e7 is crucially important. It creates a permanent weakness on d6 and blocks in the fianchettoed bishop.]
14...♘e8 15 ♘d2 ♘c7 16 ♗xa6 ♖xa6 17 ♘c4 f5 18 f3 f4 19 ♗d2 ♕a8 20 a5 ♖b8 21 ♖a3 ♕b7 22 ♖b1 ♔f7 23 g3
[A second front is needed in order to win.]
23...g5 24 ♔g2 ♔e7 25 ♖h1 h6 26 h4 ♘f6 27 hg hg 28 g4 ♖h8 29 ♖xh8 ♗xh8 30 ♖b3 ♕c8 31 ♕d1 ♗g7 32 ♖b6 ♗f8 33 ♘xd6 ♕d7 34 ♘c4 1–0

A Vice–Presidential Loss

uncovered by Mark Thornton

□ **I. R. Gooding (ENG, 1700)**
■ **F. Ambroise (FRA, 1780)**
Val Thorens (7) 1991
Sicilian Najdorf
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 f4 ♘c6 7 ♗e3 e6 8 g4?
[Ian fancied transposing to a Keres Attack.]
8...♘xd4 9 ♗xd4 e5!
[But his opponent had other, better ideas.]
10 fe ♘xg4 11 ed?
[11 Qf3 probably lets White get his king into safety, but at the price of at least a pawn.]
11...♕h4+ 12 ♔d2 ♕g5+ 13 ♔d3 ♗xd6 14 ♕d2 ♘e5+ 15 ♗xe5 ♕xe5 16 ♖g1 ♗c5 17 ♖g5 ♕d4+ 18 ♔e2 ♕f2+ 19 ♔d3 ♕d4+ 20 ♔e2 ♕f2+ 21 ♔d3 ♕f3+ 22 ♔c4 ♗e3 23 ♕d3 b5+ 24 ♔b3 ♗e6+ 25 ♘d5 0–0 26 ♖g3 ♗xd5+ 27 ed ♕f4 28 ♖xe3
[White now has some compensation for his position.]
28...♕a4+ 29 ♔c3 ♕a5+ 30 b4 ♖ac8 31 ♔b2 ♕b4+ 32 ♕b3 ♕d4+ 33 ♖c3??
[33 Kc1 leads to perpetual check, but Ian was "playing to win".]
33...b4 34 ♔b1 bc 35 ♔c1 0–1

Pudding Wins Two In A Row

by Ian Gooding

□ **I. R. Gooding (127 BCF)**
■ **P–R Palo (1720 Elo)**
Val Thorens (9) 1991
Sicilian Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 f4 ♕c7 7 ♗e2
[Nunn gives 7 Nf3, but I only bought the book in June and so could not have been expected to reach page 6 by the end of July.]
7...e6 8 O–O b5 9 a3 ♗b7 10 ♗f3 ♘bd7 11 ♖e1 ♖d8 12 f5
[The idea is to close the centre, stick the knight on d5 and push the kingside pawns. Thankfully my opponent didn't let me carry

out this plan, as I think my king would have been more embarrassed than his.]
12...e5 13 ♘de2 ♗e7 14 g4 h6 15 ♘g3 ♘b6
[I had not considered anything other than ...Nc5 and ...0–0. The idea of moving the knight to b6 is actually a rather good plan as it threatens ...d5 immediately and my intended counter to this threat, namely Nd5, loses a pawn because of the queen check on c5. However allowing ...d5 did not look too wise: 16 Be3 d5 17 ed Nbxd5 18 Nxd5 Nxd5 19 Bxd5 Rxd5 20 Qe2 Bc5+ 21 Kf1 0–0.]
16 ♘d5 ♗xd5 17 exd5 ♘bxd5 18 ♗xd5 ♕c5+ 19 ♗e3 ♕xd5 20 ♘h5
[White's compensation, which I doubt is adequate, is mainly in the form of the weakness on d6 and so this zwischenzug, removing the knight controlling d5, is quite useful.]
20...♕xd1 21 ♘xf6+ ♗xf6 22 ♖axd1 0–0 23 ♗b6 ♖d7 24 ♖d5 ♖c8 25 c3 ♖c4 26 h3 g6 27 fg fg 28 ♖ed1 ♖c6
[Incidentally, I found in Val Thorens that, while the official translation of Elo grades into BCF may work for GMs, in the lower echelons of chess the results are usually dubious and often quite ridiculous. Take for instance my round 8 game: 1 c4 c6 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4 d5 4 Nc3 dc 5 e4 b5 6 a3? (not the most visual way to go for your opponent's throat when he's just accepted your gambit) e6 7 Be2?! Bb7 8 Bf4 a6 9 Bg5? (Hmmm). The game Karume (2000 Elo = 175 BCF?!?) — Gooding continued in similar vein, (0—1, 56). One can only assume that Mr. Karume's rating was rounded up to the nearest multiple of two thousand. (Note how I have cunningly included the two games I won, whilst the six humiliating, blunder-ridden losses will remain buried forever in my scorebook).
(Sceptics of the 8 × BCF + 600 = FIDE correlation are referred to the November 1990 issue of BCM, where an alternative formulation 6 × BCF + 1060 = FIDE is discussed. The two are quite close at around the 200 BCF mark but differ significantly at lower grades — Ed).]
29 ♗c5 ♗e7
[This is the position I had dreamed of when playing 16 Nd5. Black's pieces are uselessly defending d6 and White will regain his pawn with an active position.]
30 ♗b4 e4 31 ♖e1 ♗d8 32 a4 e3 33 ab ab 34 ♖xb5 ♖f7 35 ♖b8 ♖f8
[Black is effectively a rook down at the moment because the lump on c6 is useless.]
36 ♖f1 ♖e8?
[This loses the bishop. 36...Be7 37 Rbxf8+ Bxf8 38 Re1 +– .]
37 ♗a5 e2 38 ♖e1 ♗b6+
[He could have tried resigning.]
39 ♖xb6 ♖c4 40 ♖b4 ♖c5 41 ♗b6 ♖cc8 42 ♔f2 ♖e6 43 ♖xe2 ♖f8+ 44 ♔e1 ♖ef6 45 ♗d4 ♖f3 46 ♖b6 ♖d8 47 ♖e7 g5 48 ♖g7+ ♔f8 49 ♖h7 ♔e8 50 ♖b7 1–0

Exciting Presidential Nullity
from Jim Totty

□ **J. T. Totty (1820)**
■ **P. Vincente (1920)**
Val Thorens (9) 1991
1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 ♗g5 ♗g7 4 e3 0–0 5 ♘bd2 c5 6 c3 d6 7 ♕c2 h6 8 ♗f4 ♘h5 9 ♗g3 ♘xg3
[Gives me an obvious plan of attack against the weak Black king-side.]
10 hg e6 11 ♗d3 ♘d7
[There was a grunt and a snuffle from under the table. The Alsatian from Board 43 was chewing my black umbrella.]
12 0–0–0 d5 13 ♖h4
[13 Nh4 is much more interesting. If now 13...c4, then 14 Bxg6 fg 15 Nxg6 and a white knight will come to e5 along with strong pressure against the h6 pawn e.g. 15...Rf6 17 Nf3, or 16...Rxf2 17 Ne5.]
13...c4 14 ♗e2
[14 Bxg6 fxg6 15 Qxg6 Rf6 –+.]
14...b5 15 ♖dh1 ♕e7 16 ♘e5?! ♘xe5 17 de ♗xe5 18 ♖xh6 ♗g7 19 ♖h7 ♗d7 20 e4
[Vastly better is 20 f4! e.g. 20...Rb8 21 Nf3 b4 22 Ne5! Now, 22...bc 23 Qxc3 △ Rxg7+! and Nxg6!! Or, 22...b3:

Now 23 Nxg6!! wins the lot.]
20...♖b8 21 f4 b4 22 e5 bxc3 23 ♕xc3 ♗a4 24 g4 ♕b7 25 ♖7h3 d4 26 ♕xd4 c3 27 ♕xc3 ♖c8 28 ♘c4 ♗b5 29 b3 ♕e4 30 ♕e3
[Remis? Mais oui!.] ½–½

Postscript To My Round 8 Game

by Mark Thornton

In Round 9, Françis Cordier showed how me (& Rajko?) just how easy it can be to hack up child prodigies:–

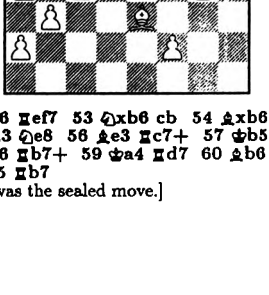
□ **F. Cordier (FRA, 1920)**
■ **G. Schwartzmann (ROM, 2360)**
King's Gambit
1 e4 e5 2 f4 ♘f6 3 ♘f3 d5 4 fe ♘xe4 5 d3 ♘c5 6 d4 ♘e4 7 ♗d3 ♗e7 8 0–0 0–0 9 ♘c3 ♘xc3?
[9...f5=]
10 bc c5??
[An extraordinary move from someone who must have ambitions to become a super-GM, at least.]
11 ♗xh7+!
[The exclamation mark is awarded because this is slightly deeper than the standard "Greek gift" sacrifice.]
11...♔xh7 12 ♘g5+ ♗xg5 13 ♕h5+ ♗h6 14 ♖f6! ♔g8 15 ♗xh6 gf 16 ♖f1 ♕d7 17 ♗g7 1–0

A game for Françis to show his grandchildren should Gabriel become famous one day.

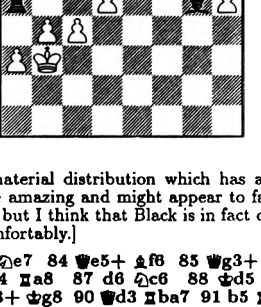
Weird Game

Reported by Mark Thornton

□ **G. Mitev (BLG, 2330)**
■ **O. Lundberg (SWE, 2040)**
Val Thorens (8) 1991



52 ♔c6 ♖ef7 53 ♘xb6 cb 54 ♗xb6 ♘f6 55 ♕h3 ♘e8 56 ♗e3 ♖c7+ 57 ♔b5 ♘f6 58 ♕e6 ♖b7+ 59 ♔a4 ♖d7 60 ♗b6 ♖e8 61 ♕f5 ♖b7
[This was the sealed move.]
62 ♗e3 ♘g8 63 ♕g6 ♖a8 64 ♗d2 ♗f8 65 f4?!
[This move was critised by Lundberg and IM Johannson.]
65...ef 66 ♗xf4 ♖d8 67 ♗d2 ♗g7 68 ♗xa5!?
[White's only real winning try, but it has the effect of pouring glue on the queen-side.]
68...♖a8 69 b4 ♗f8?!
[Lundberg agreed with me that 69...Nf6 △ ...Ne8 was better.]
70 a3 ♗e7 71 ♕g3
[White is tacking about, so as to present Black with difficult decisions near the time control at move 80.]
71...♘f6 72 ♕f4 ♔g7 73 ♕g3+ ♔h8 74 ♕g6 ♘g8 75 ♕f7 ♖aa7
[75...Nf6 allows 76 b5, freeing the bishop.]
76 ♕f5 ♖a8 77 ♕f7 ♖aa7 78 ♕e8 ♗g5 79 ♕c8 ♔g7 80 ♔b3 ♘e7 81 ♕d8 ♘g8 82 ♕xd6 ♖xa5



[The material distribution which has arisen is quite amazing and might appear to favour White, but I think that Black is in fact drawing comfortably.]
83 c5 ♘e7 84 ♕e5+ ♗f6 85 ♕g3+ ♗g5 86 ♔c4 ♖a8 87 d6 ♘c6 88 ♔d5 ♘d8 89 ♕c3+ ♔g8 90 ♕d3 ♖ba7 91 b5 ♖xa3 92 ♕g6+ ♔h8 93 c6 ♖3a5 94 ♕e8+ ♔g7 95 c7 ♘f7 96 ♕xa8 ♖xa8 97 d7 ♖a1 98 c8=♕ ♖d1+ 99 ♔c5 ♘d8 100 ♔b4 ♖d2 101 ♔b3 ♔f7 102 b6 ♔e7 103 b7 ♘xb7 104 ♕xb7 ♖xd7 105 ♕e4+ ½—½

Black clearly has a fortress on the king-side.

Scandic Cup, Odense, July 1991.

by G. K. Burgess

The Scandic Cup is a fine tournament. The sort of tournament where they pay for your accommodation & meals in a 6½-star Scandic hotel and offer an appearance fee without it being requested or at all deserved. The Scandic Hotel, Odense will hopefully be the venue for a huge Open tournament in late 1992, but with Rehau windows not selling too well, Jepsen is talking about diversification into brothel-keeping to provide the necessary finance.

The tournament was a modest category 4; enough to keep crap players like me busy. The winner of the tournament, Polish IM Borkowski, scored 8/9, contributing to the lack of IM norms.

The local press seemed to think I was a bit lucky, since in one game rook blunders were traded in desperate time trouble before my opponent's resignation, but finding the only way to fail to win against Borkowski four (!) pawns up surely balances this. "Looking at it philosophically" (PANW) it is only possible in chess to have good luck (the opponent playing badly) since your own mistakes are just incompetence.

My most embarrassing event was only drawing with a girl rated 1550, though this was in the 'Guess The Results' competition.

For once, I make no attempt to appease "the cruder elements of the club" and instead present the game I found most interesting:

□ L. Schandorff (Læseforeningen)
■ G. K. Burgess (Sydøstfyn)
King's Indian Averbakh, Round 8

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♗e2 0–0 6 ♗g5 h6 7 ♗e3 c5

[Turning in desperation to yet another Yurtaev line.

Theory hackers may be interested in my Round 6 game (which I annotated in Danish for the bulletin using snazi words like "ifølge", "vidste", "sød" and "Remisvariant" — the German title of Rajko's book): 6 Nf3 e5 7 O–O ed 8 Nxd4 Re8 9 f3 c6 10 Be3 d5 11 cd Nxd5 12 Nxd5 cd 13 Qb3 Nc6 14 Rad1 Nxd4 15 Bxd4 Bxd4+ 16 Rxd4 Qf6 17 Qxd5 Be6 18 e5! *(alle andre træk giver sort fordel)* 18...Bxd5 19 ef Rxe2 *(19...Bxa2 20 Kf2!)* 20 Rxd5 Rxb2 *(Jakob Bjerre Jensen's suggestion 20...Re6 may be better and looks sufficient to hold the draw, e.g. 21 Rd7 b5 22 Rfc1 Rxf6 23 Rcc7 a6)* 21 Rfd1 h6 22 h4!? N *(22 Rd8+ draws, as in some five-minute games Crocker—Burgess, 1990)* 22...Rb6 *(22...Rxa2 23 Rd8+ Rxd8 24 Rxd8+ Kh7 25 Rf8 g5 26 h5 smells like a win for White.)* 23 Rd6 Rc8 24 g4 g5 *(Now 25 h5 looks "temelligt" strong, e.g. 25...Rcc6 26 Rd8+ Kh7 27 Rf8 Rxf6 28 Rdd8 Rxf3 29 Rh8+ Kg7 30 Rdg8+ Kf6 31 Rxh6+ Ke5?! 32 Rxb6 ab 33 h6 Rh3 34 Rxg5+ Kf6 35 Rh5! +–. Instead, S. Pedersen — GKB concluded ...)* 25 Rxb6 ab 26 hg hg 27 Rb1 Kh7 28 Rxb6 Rc1+ 29 Kf2 ½—½.
(Editorial alteration to Graham's Danish)]

8 dc

[8 e5 de 9 de Qxd1+ 10 Rxd1 Ng4 11 Bxc5 Nxe5. Shout "Yurtaev" if you feel like it. Or indeed "Agzamov-Yurtaev." More reserved souls may prefer to say "Inf. 50/617."]

8...♕a5 9 ♗d2

[I feared 9 Qd2 & a theory hack along the lines of Seirawan—Timman, Tilburg 1990, but without Seirawan's blunder.]

9...♕xc5

[9...dc is also known, but didn't strike me as very sexy, since I didn't then realise it was Yurtaev's preference.]

10 ♘f3 ♘c6

[Black may ponder over 10...Bg4, but would be unlikely to decide which is the better move.]

11 ♗e3

[N, but the position was new to me anyway. This move confirmed my worst fears: I would have to play a Maróczy-type position. Not that I have anything against this type of pawn structure, just all I know about it could be written in marker pen on the back of a triangular postage stamp from Zanzibar.]

11...♕a5 12 ♘d2 ♘e5

[After searching in vain for a way to get my Freddie moving or a ...d5 pawn sac. to work, I noticed I'd only made two knight moves.]

13 f3

[13 h3 might be met by 13...g5, "though I wouldn't show it to my grandmother" — PKW.]

13...♗d7

[Maybe a ...b5 pawn sac. will work?!]

14 0–0

[14 Nb3 Qc7 15 Nd5 Nxd5 16 cd Nc4.]

14...♖fc8 15 ♖c1 a6

["Cross b6" — Vujatović.]

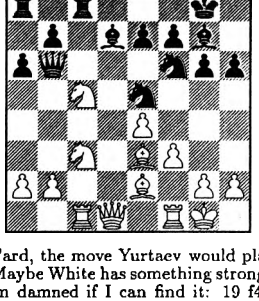
16 ♘b3

[16 Qb3 b5 17 cb ab 18 Nxb5 Rcb8.]

16...♕d8 17 c5

[17 Nd5 Nxd5 18 ed *(18 cd Rxc1 19 Nxc1 Rc8 =)* 18...b5 19 c5 Nc4!]

17...dc 18 ♘xc5 ♕b6!?



[Well–'ard, the move Yurtaev would play, jeg tror. Maybe White has something strong here, but I'm damned if I can find it: 19 f4 Nfg4 20 Bxg4 Bxg4 gets a big infinity symbol (∞ — *Ed)*, though it was a relief when he played the flaccid ...]

19 ♕b3 ♕xb3 20 ab ♗c6 21 ♖fd1 ♘ed7

[21...e6 is interesting. By now, I'd decided that a loss was still quite feasible.]

22 ♘d3 e6

[This *was* pure luck. Quite by accident, the move prepares 23...Bf8 as a reply to 23 Nb4.]

23 ♖d2 ♗f8 24 ♖dc2 ♖d8 25 b4 ♘e8 26 ♘c5 ♘xc5?!

[A bit of tidnød creeping in here. The calm 26...Nc7 has no disadvantages.]

27 bc ♘c7 28 b4 ♗g7 29 ♔f2 ♖d7

[Maybe 29...h5 or 29...Kh7, in order to prepare ...Bxc3 and sticking something on b5.]

30 ♖b1 ♗d4 31 b5 ♗xe3+ 32 ♔xe3 ab 33 ♘xb5 ♘xb5 34 ♗xb5 ♖a3+ 35 ♔e2?!

[35 Kf4 is a better try.]

35...♖c7 36 ♗xc6 ♖xc6

[He thought 36...bc should draw, but with little time it is difficult to assess whether passive defence is sufficient.]

37 ♖xb7 ♖a5 38 ♖d2 ♖axc5 39 ♖dd7?!

[Not really the best try, though Black had perhaps 30 seconds to find a strong 40th move. 39 Rd8+ Kg7 40 Rdd7 Rc2+ 41 Kf1 g5! (move 41, so hopefully I'd have found it) holds: 42 Rxf7+ Kg6 43 Rg7+ *(43 e5 Rc1+ 44 Kf2 R6c2+ 45 Kg3? Rg1+)* 43...Kh5 44 g4+ Kh4 45 Rh7 Rxh2 *(or 45...e5)*.]

39...♖c2+ 40 ♔e3 e5!

[Fairly sexy.]

41 ♖d2 ♖6c3+ ½—½

Have You Stopped Paying Your Community Charge?

A "bijoux", probably my last as a "payer" of this jobbie of a tax:

□ **G. Moore**
■ **G. K. Burgess**
Frome op (5) 1991

1 ♘f3

[He didn't fancy a Защита Алехина.]

1...♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 d4 O–O 5 ♗g5

[Nor a proper Kongeindisk.]

5...c5

[Rikard Winsnes alerted me to this, Black's only real hack-attempt against the Smyslov. And no, Ed, I don't mean "maim-attempt". Huh!]

6 e3 cd 7 ed d5 8 ♗xf6

[8 cd Nxd5 9 Bc4 Be6!]

8...♗xf6 9 ♘xd5

[9 cd gives Black a choice between 9...Bg4= and 9...Nd7 10 Bc4 Nb6 11 Bb3 Bg4 12 0–0 Nc8 13 Ne4 Bg7 14 Re1 Nd6, Allan—Nunn. Szirak (izt) 1987.]

9...♗g7 10 ♘c3

[Inkiov! 10 Ne3 Nc6 11 d5 Qa5+ 12 Nd2 Bxb2 13 Rb1 Bc3 14 dc Rd8 15 Nd5 Bxd2+ 16 Qxd2 Qxd2+ 17 Kxd2 bc made White look rather silly in Knaak—Grünberg, DDR ch (Zittau) 1989.]

10...♗g4

[Dunno about this.]

11 d5?!

[11 Be2 is a better move, about which my notes are rather quiet.]

11...♕a5 12 ♕c2 ♗xf3 13 gf ♘d7 14 ♗e2 ♖c8 15 0–0 ♘b6 16 ♕b3 ♗xc3

[An instructive use of a bishop pair — to take two horses.]

17 bc ♖c7 18 ♖fd1 ♖fc8 19 ♖d4 ♘a4

[A bit mindless, but it was Sunday afternoon, within a few miles of Radstock.]

20 ♕b4 ♖c5 21 ♖c1 ♕a6 22 ♖b1 ♘b6 23 ♖b2 ♘xc4 24 ♕xb7 ♕f6!

[Suddenly White has problems.]

25 ♖b5 ♘d6

[25...R5c7 is worth more thought than I gave it.]

26 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 27 ♕b8+ ♔g7 28 ♕xa7

["Extra pawns".]

28...♖xc3 29 ♖d1 ♘f5

[Stops Qd4.]

30 ♔h1 ♕e5 31 ♗d3 ♘h4 32 ♗e4 ♘xf3

[Stereotypical.]

33 ♗xf3 ♖xf3 34 ♔g2

[Strong king.]

34...♖f4 35 ♕e3 ♖e4 36 ♕g3 ♕f5 37 ♕c3+ f6 38 d6?

[Zeitnot, or indeed tidnød, but White cannot survive anyway.]

38...♕g4+ 0–1

Disreputable Chess Openings — The English Defence

by Rajko Vujatović

The English Defence is characterised by the sequence 1 d4 e6 2 c4 b6 and 3...Bb7. Black's strategy is akin to the Queen's Indian in contesting the central White squares. But by delaying ...Nf6, Black maintains the option of ...f5. This is clearly a strategically desirable thrust. It not only fights for e4, but can also lead to an open f-file and present good hacking chances, as in the highly reputable Schliemann Defence to the Ruy Lopez.

If White reacts insipidly, then Black's formation will represent a formidable hybrid of the Queen's Indian and Classical Dutch (since in the Classical Dutch ...b6 and ...Bb7 is generally prohibited by a White bishop on g2). If White attempts to immediately inhibit the Bb7 by d5 and Nc3, then the pin ...Bb4 is an effective counter. Hence the critical position arises after 3 e4 Bb7.

It should be noted that 3...Nf6 is poor. After 4 Nc3 Bb4 5 Qc2 Bb7 6 Bd3±, White has an excellent form of Nimzo-Indian. Not only has he saved a tempo by playing e4 in one go, but the king's knight isn't obstructing the f-pawn and has the option of developing at e2.

□ R. Vujatović	Lloyds Bank
■ S. Le Blancq (2270)	1991(7)

English Defence

1.	d2–d4	e7–e6
2.	c2–c4	b7–b6?!

"I would rather eat my own shit than put my queen's bishop into fianchetto" — Burgess.

3.	e2–e4	♗c8–b7
4.	♕d1–c2!	

There are 3 alternatives. 4 Nd2! may transpose to 4 Qc2, whilst 4 Bd3!? is also good.

A:– **4 Bd3!?** f5 5 ef Bxg2 6 Qh5+ g6 7 fg Bg7 8 gh+ Kf8 was fashionable amongst English grandmasters in the early 1980's, but was eventually analysed to a forced win for White. Keene considers 4...Nc6 best. After 5 Nf3 *(Not 5 d5?! Ne5 6 Be2 Qh4! 7 Nc3 [7 Nd2 Bb4] 7...Bb4 8 Qc2 f5)* 5...Nb4 6 O–O Ne7 7 Nc3 Nxd3 8 Qxd3 Ng6 9 a3, Miles—Sosonko, Tunis Interzonal 1985, was prematurely drawn, presumably due to the tournament situation. Keene mentions the plan of ...Be7, ... O–O, and ...f5. But the thematic 9 d5! is clearly stronger. White plans Nd4 and f4, ...f5 ideas are laid to rest and the Bb7 is horribly stifled. Thus, White maintains a cosy positional advantage. Anyone interested in playing this line should consult the Batsford book by Keene, Plaskett & Tisdall, for the theory of 4...f5.

B:– **4 Nd2!** Now 4...Qh4 5 Qc2 transposes to the game. Black has 3 dubious alternatives:
(i) 4...**d5** 5 cd ed 6 e5±. Black's counterplay with c5 is too slow and ineffective to undermine White's central wedge. After 6...c5 *(Not 6...f6? 7 Bd3! when Black has merely succeeded in weakening his kingside with loss of tempo)* White has the choice of several promising configurations. (7 f4!?; 7 Ngf3; 7 Bd3 Δ Ne2). In these positions, White generally isn't worried about Black "winning" the d-pawn, since his central and kingside play will progress undeterred, whilst Black's options remain somewhat limited.
(ii) 4...Nc6 5 d5 Nd4 *(5...Nce7 6 Ngf3± — the Ne7 merely inhibits Black's kingside development)* 6 Ngf3 c5 *(6...Nxf3+ 7 Qxf3±)* 7 Nxd4 cd 8 Bd3±.
(iii) 4...f5. Now either 5 e5 Δ f4 or 5 Bd3 gives White a very cosy edge.

C:– **4 f3** f5 = is rather feeble.

4.	...	♕d8–h4

I played 4 Qc2, hoping Le Blancq would follow some very dodgy analysis he submitted to *Informator 48*. 4...Nc6 *(4...d5 5 cd ed 6 e5±)* 5 Nf3 Nb4 6 Qe2 f5 7 ef Qf6 8 fe O–O–O 9 Bg5 Qf5 *(9...Qg6 10 Bxd8 Nc2+ 11 Kd1 Nxa1 12 ed+ Kxd8 13 Qe8+ Qxe8 14 de=Q+ Kxe8 15 Nc3±)* and now best is 10 ed+ *(Le Blancq only considers 10 Bxd8 Nc2+ 11 Kd1 Nxa1 12 Nc3 Kxd8∞)* 10...Kxd7 *(Perhaps he overlooked 10...Rxd7 11 Qe8+ Rd8 12 Qxd8#)* 11 Bxd8 Nc2+ 12 Kd1 Nxa1 13 Nc3 Kxd8 14 Qd3±. The knight on a1 is doomed.
5...**Qf6!?** is a possible improvement. 6 d5 (6 Be3?? Nb4∓; 6 e5? Nb4! *[6...Qg6 7 Qxg6 hxg6 is only equal]* 7 Qc3 Qf5 8 Na3 f6 += Δ ...Bxf3 *[The immediate 8...Bxf3 9 Qxf3 Qxf3 10 gf f6 allows f4!]*) 6...**Ne5** 7 **Be2** is the best response. White's central phalanx yields the advantage, as attempting to undermine it by 7...c6 fails to 8 O–O!±.

5.	♘b1–d2	♗f8–b4
6.	♗f1–d3	f7–f5

After 6...Qg4!? 7 Kf1± White maintains his pawn centre and will gain time chasing the queen.

7.	♘g1–f3	♗b4×d2+

Better is 7...Qg4 8 O–O Bxd2 9 Nxd2 Nc6 10 f3 Qh4! 11 Qc3 Nf6 (Howell—Le Blancq,

England 1989) 12 e5! Nh5 13 Nb3. White retains a slight advantage due to his two bishies and spatial superiority.

8. ♗c1×d2!

Initiating a forcing variation that involves a double pawn sacrifice.

8.	...	♕h4–g4
9.	♘f3–e5!	♕g4×g2
10.	0–0–0	♗b7×e4?

TN. The normal line is 10...fe 11 Be2 when none of Black's alternatives are particularly satisfactory:

A:– 11...e3? 12 Bxe3 Qxh1 13 Rxh1 Bxh1 14 Bh5+ g6 15 Bxg6+ hg 16 Qxg6+ +–

B:– 11...Qxf2? 12 Bh5+ g6 13 Nxg6 hg 14 Bxg6+ Kd8 15 Bg5 +–

C:– 11...d6 12 Rhg1 Qxf2 13 Bg5! Δ Bh5+

D:– 11...Nf6 12 Rhg1 Qxf2 13 Bh6 (Δ Bh5+) 13...Qxh2 14 Bxg7 Rg8 15 Bxf6 Rxg1 16 Bh5+ Qxh5 17 Rxg1 +–

E:– 11...Nc6! (This developing move is best but still insufficient) 12 Nxc6 Bxc6 13 d5! ed *(13...Bb7?! 14 Bh5+ g6 [14...Kd8 15 de +–] was Remlinger–Rogers, Philadelphia 1986, and now instead of 15 Bc3? Qg5+!, White should have played 15 Qc3 O–O–O 16 Qh8 ed [16...gh 17 Rhg1+–] 17 cd Bxd5 18 Be2 Bxa2 19 Qd4 +–)* 14 cd Bxd5.

Now according to Keene et al., 15 Rhg1 Qxf2 16 Bh6! Qxg1 17 Rxg1 Nxh6 18 Qxc7 is better for White, since Black is unable to castle *(18... O–O?? 19 Qe5 +–)*. The plausible 18...Nf5 is met by 19 Bg4! Be6 20 Bxf5 Bxf5 21 Rxg7 ±. Black is in a minor wugzwang! e.g. 21...Be6 22 b3 followed by marching the king up, or 21...Rf8 22 Kd2.

Rogers suggests 15 Qc7± without further analysis. His assessment seems correct — some sample lines:

(i) 15...Nf6 16 Rhg1 Qxf2 17 Rxg7 Qxe2 18 Qe5+ with a winning attack.

(ii) 15...Qxf2 16 Bc3 +–

(iii) 15...e3 16 Bh5+! g6 17 Rhe1 +–

(iv) 15...Ne7! 16 Bc3! Rc8 ± (16...Rg8? 17 Rhg1 Qxf2 18 Bg4 +–)

11. ♖h1–g1

After the game, I looked in *Informator 47*, where grandmaster Ian Rogers assesses this position as unclear.

11.	...	♗e4×d3
12.	♕c2×d3	♕g2–e4

Otherwise 13 Rxg7 yields a devastating attack.

13. ♕d3–g3!

+–: "Ehhxtrhah rrhooookh" — Misha Ullyullyullyullybieeeeeen *(This should be sung in an obstreperous yodelling voice — Ed).*

13. ... g7–g6

With five pieces attacking versus one harrassed queen defending, one would be correct in sensing that a profound tactical coup was in the air.

14. ♘e5×g6

If Le Blancq had subscribed to *Dragon*, he would have learnt that "if you don't move your rooks from Rook 1, you won't get the chance" — Dave Lee, Issue 75, February 1991.

14. ... ♘b8–c6

14...hg 15 Qxg6+ Kd8 16 Qg7 threatens Qf8# as well as mopping up on the kingside, whilst 14...f4 15 Qh4 doesn't help either.

15. ♘g6×h8

A lump down, the number one board for the Greater Channel Islands Olympiad team continued up to move 25 to avoid a miniature. The rest of the game in brief:

15...O–O–O 16 ♕e3 ♕xd4 17 ♕xd4 ♘xd4 18 ♖g7 c5 19 ♗e3 ♘c6 20 ♘f7 ♖f8 21 ♘d6+ ♔b8 22 ♖xd7 ♘f6 23 ♖f7 ♖xf7 24 ♘xf7 ♔c7 25 ♖d6 1—0

And "Black had learnt not to believe everything in *Informator*" — Nunn.

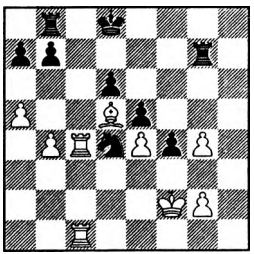
What a lot of Barry

says Uncle Johnny

□ **J. Wilson** **cr 1991**
■ **B. Mason (2213 postal)**
King's Indian Classical
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♘f3 O–O 6 ♗e2 e5 7 O–O ♘c6 8 d5 ♘e7 9 ♘e1
I played the trendy 9 Nd2 a few times last year, but gave it up after Glenn Flear told me he doesn't think it promises White much.
9...♘d7 10 ♗e3
This very aggressive move is also rather less sane than 10 Nd3 Δ 11 Bd2.
10...f5 11 f3 f4 12 ♗f2
I recently discovered the following comment on this position, in Bronstein's book of the 1953 Candidates Tournament : '...it would be naïve to speak of any sort of advantage to White. Could Black hope to obtain more from the opening than the development of all his pieces, the advance ...f7–f5–f4, occupation of the dark squares, and substantial attacking prospects on the kingside?' Even so, this position has become very topical again.
12...g5 13 a4!?
This maniacal move was invented by Korchnoi in 1987 and announces White's intention to remove most of Black's queenside. The motive is that 13 Nb5 is well met by 13...b6, but now White is ready to follow Nb5 b6 with a5.
13...♘g6!
13...Nf6? 14 c5!; 13...a6 14 a5!; 13...a5 14 Nd3 Δ 15 b4; 13...h5 14 Nb5 Nf6 15 Nxa7 Bd7 16 Nb5 g4 17 fg hg 18 Bh4 Nxe4 19 Bxg4 ± Korchnoi – Hellers, Stockholm 1987.
14 a5 ♖f7
14...h5, as played in Wilson–Carr, Cambridge University v. Barbican 1991, is probably less accurate. That game continued 15 Nb5 Nf6 16 Nxa7 Bd7 17 a6 ba 18 Rxa6 g4 19 c5 g3 20 hg fg 21 Bxg3 h4 22 Bf2 Nh5 23 cd Qg5 24 dc Ngf4 25 c8 = Q? Bxc8 26 Nxc8 Raxc8 27 Kh2 Ng3 28 Bd3 Rb8 29 b4 Rxb4 30 Bc5 Nxf1+ 31 Bxf1 Qg3+ 32 Kh1 Rb2 33 Rb6 Rf2 34 Bxf2 Qxf2 –+, but 25 Kh2 would have left it quite unclear.
15 b4 ♘f6 16 c5 ♗f8 17 cd ♗xd6 18 ♘d3 ♖g7 19 ♘c5 ♘f8 20 ♘b5 g4 21 ♗h4
This is Korchnoi's improvement on 21 Qe1?, which he played in the original 13...Ng6 game, Korchnoi–Nunn, Amsterdam 1990. 21...Qe8 22 fg Nxg4 23 Ra3? *(23 Kh1)* Qg6 24 Bf3 Qh6 25 h3 Nxf2 26 Kxf2 Be7 27 Qc1 followed, and now 27...a6 would have put White in serious trouble.
21...g3
Korchnoi–J. Polgar, Pamplona 1990/91, featured 21...h5 22 Bc4 Qe7 23 Kh1 a6? *(23...Kh8)* 24 Nxc7 ±
22 hg ♘g6 23 ♗xf6 ♕xf6 24 g4 h5 25 ♘xd6 cd 26 ♘e6

So far, both players had been happily cruising down Korchnoi's analysis in Informator 50 of his game with Nunn, which helpfully assesses this position as unclear. While it could be considered a rather expensive form of entertainment to play 26 moves of theory in a postal chess game, it does concentrate the mind wonderfully on those obscure but critical theoretical variations.
26...♗xe6
26...hg!? is interesting, as 27 Nxg7? g3 28 Bc4 Qh4 29 Re1 Qh2+ 30 Kf1 Nh4 31 Ke2 □ *(31 Ra2 Bh3!)* Qxg2+ 32 Kd3 Kxg7 gives Black rather a lot for the exchange. White must play 27 fg, when 27...Rh7 *(27...Bxe6 transposes)* 28 g5 Qh8 29 Kf2 Rh2 30 Rg1 looks OK for White.
27 de hg 28 fg ♕xe6
White is now urgently in need of a decent plan, so I was pleased to discover the following manœuvre, the aim of which is to get my bishop the other side of the pawns.
29 ♖c1 ♔f8 30 ♗c4 ♕d7 31 ♕d5 ♘e7 32 ♕e6 ♕xe6
White keeps some advantage in the event of 32...Ke8 33 Rfd1 Rd8 34 Qxd7+ Kxd7 35 Bb5+ Ke6 36 Rc7 Rxg4 37 Kf2.
33 ♗xe6 ♘c6 34 ♖c4 ♘d4 35 ♗d5!
35 Bf5 fails to 35...b5, when 36 ab ab sets the black rook off on the rampage, and any rook move loses something (36 Rc8+ Rxc8 37 Bxc8 Rc7 is a horrible ending).
35...♖b8
35...Rxg4 36 Kf2! Rg7 37 Rh1! is good, as the queen-side majority which arises after the b7 pawn falls is very dangerous.

36 ♔f2!
Making c1 safe for a rook by preventing ...Ne2+.
36...♔e8
This looks a waste of time. 36...Rxg4 37 Rh1 Kg7 38 Rc7+ is not very hopeful, but I thought at the time that 36...b6 had to be tried. However, 37 a6 Nb5 38 Rfc1 Rxg4 39 Rc8+ Rxc8 40 Rxc8+ Ke7 *(40...Kg7 41 Rg8+)* 41 Bc4! Nc3 *(41...Na3 42 Be2)* 42 Rc7+ Kd8 43 Rxa7 Nxe4+ 44 Kf3 Nf6 45 Rf7 +– looks conclusive.
37 ♖fc1 ♔d8



38 g5!
The kamikaze pawn marches on! 38...Rxg4? 39 Rc7 Δ 40 Rh7 is not a good idea.
38...b6 39 a6 ♘b5 40 ♖h1!
The threat of 41 Rh8+ gains the move needed to teleport the rook up to h5 to support the star of the show.
40...♔e7 41 ♖h5 ♖d8
41...Rf8 42 Kf3 Nd4+ 43 Kg4 Ne6 *(43...f3 44 gf Rf4+ 45 Kg3 Rxf3+ 46 Kg2 threatening both 47 Rxd4 and 47 Rc7+)* 44 Rh6! and if 44...Rxg5+ 45 Kh4 +–
42 ♔f3 ♘d4+ 43 ♔g4 ♔d7 44 ♖h6 ♖f8 45 ♖c3!
The careless 45 g6? runs into a nice cheapo: 45...f3 46 gf Rf4+ and if 47 Kh5? Nxf3 Δ 48...Rh4 mate.
45...b5 46 ♖ch3 ♖e8 47 g6 ♘e6 48 ♖h7 1–0
48...Rge7 *(48...Ree7 49 Rxg7 Rxg7 50 Rh7)* 49 Rxe7+ Kxe7 50 Rh7+ Kf6 51 Bxe6 Kxe6 *(51...Rxe6 52 Kh5 Δ 53 Rf7 mate)* 52 Rxa7 and the ending is trivial.

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My Finger's Stuck In Harriet Hunt's Apple Dumpling

by Rajko Vujatović

□ **P. Leko (2385)**
■ **R. Vujatović**
Lloyds Bank Masters 1991 (10)

1.	e2–e4	c7–c5
2.	♘g1–f3	e7–e6
3.	d2–d4	

Leko is an eleven (!) year old Hungarian prodigy, and he knows his theeory too.

3.	...	c5×d4
4.	♘f3×d4	♘g8–f6
5.	♘b1–c3	d7–d6

Shhhhevinghhen.

6.	f2–f4	a7–a6
7.	♕d1–f3	

⩲. This move is covered by an obscure footnote in Nikitin's 200 page book on the Scheveningen. But it has recently been very much in vogue. Indeed, it was only later that I found this was the third time Leko had had this position in this tournament! One of his previous encounters was a draw against the Latvian Shabalov, who came joint second behind the winner Shirov, whilst also attaining the GM title.

7.	...	♘b8–d7

Shabalov played 7...Qb6, but this presents White with greater options.

8.	g2–g4	

8 Nb3 Qc7 9 g4 h6 10 h4 (otherwise the voluntary knight retreat loses a tempo) 10...h5 11 g5 Ng4 12 a4 *(12 Bb3 g6 13 Bxg4 hg 14 Qxg4 Bg7 15 Bd2 b5 ⩱)* 12...b6 13 Bh3 g6 14 Bxg4 hg 15 Qxg4 Bg7 16 Bd2 Bb7 yielded good compensation in Grigorov—Ghitescu, Thessaloniki (ol) 1984.

8.	...	h7–h6
9.	♗f1–d3	

N. Short—Kasparov, Beograd 1989, continued 9 Be2! *(9 h4 e5 10 Nb3 ef 11 Bxf4 Ne5; 9 Be3 e5)* 9...Qb6 10 Nb3 Qc7 11 Qg2! Rb8! *(11...b5? 12 e5 Bb7 13 Bf3±)* 12 Be3 *(12 h4 d5 13 ed Nb6 14 de Bxe6 ⩱, or 13 e5 Ne4 14 Nxe4 de 15 Qxe4 b5 ⩱)* 12...b5 ∞. The move played suffers from the drawback of failing to inhibit Black's queenside expansion.

9.	...	♕d8–b6
10.	♘d4–b3	♕b6–c7

A standard manœuvre to drive the gee-gee to a less offensive post. Despite knowing the manœuvre and knowing that it is necessary immediately, I spent half an hour contemplating it. Considering my subsequent time trouble, this was rather annoying.

The main reason for my unfeasibly long ponder was the shrill of the hotel's fire alarms periodically screeching through my ears. "Stop all clocks!" shreiked Stewart Reuben. All would then rise, stroll about and mutter "what a jolly bad show" A few would even use the opportunity to peak in BCO_3. Then the bells would stop. "Restart all clocks!" Five minutes to gain concentration whilst pondering highly dubious but interesting ...g5 pawn sacs (I was in that sort of mood). Then the bells go off again. And so on ...

11.	♗c1–e3	b7–b5

Long before I played this move, John Wilson had agreed a truce with Demis Hassapis.

12.	0–0–0	♗c8–b7
13.	h2–h4?	

Since Black's central counterattack comes first, better is the prophylactic 13 a3, but Black is still doing fine.

13.	...	b5–b4
14.	♘c3–e2	d6–d5
15.	♘e2–g3	0–0–0

∓. It is tempting to leave the king in the centre, especially as a rook belongs on c8. Unfortunately, this idea is a load of crap.

16.	g4–g5	d5×e4
17.	♘g3×e4	♘f6–d5

A juicy square for the gee-gee.

18.	♗e3–d2	a6–a5!

⩡: "Grandmaster move" — Leko. This standard pawn advance is especially strong here since White has little intrinsic counterattacking potential.

19.	♖h1–e1	h6×g5!

Not 19...g6 20 h5!

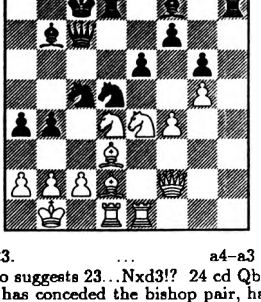
20.	h4×g5	g7–g6!

This prepares to activate the bishop along the long diagonal before playing a4.

21.	♕f3–f2!	

Defending d4.

21.	...	a5–a4
22.	♘b3–d4	♘d7–c5
23.	♔c1–b1	



23. ... a4–a3

?. Leko suggests 23...Nxd3!? 24 cd Qb6∓ — White has conceded the bishop pair, has the inferior pawn structure, and is also slightly constipated. However, it is extraordinarily difficult from a psychological viewpoint to dash hopes of a quick hack in favour of a mere positional advantage.

More interesting is the position arising after 23...Nxe4!? 24 Bxe4 Bc5 25 Bxd5! Rxd5 26 Be3 Rhd8 27 Rd2 Qb6 28 Red1. White's pieces are horribly tied down, but it is not clear whether Black can exploit this. Neither 28...b3 29 cb ab 30 a3 nor 28...a3 29 b3 inflict any immediate damage, whilst 28...f6? 29 gf g5? 30 fg e5 31 Nf5 just doesn't work.

24. ♗d2–c1! ♘c5×e4
25. ♗d3×e4 ♕c7–b6
26. ♕f2–g2 ♗f8–g7
27. ♘d4–b3 a3×b2

∓. In the analysis room, Leko expressed great praise at my hitherto superb choice of moves, only to follow it with scorn at how I proceeded to throw the game away!

28. ♗c1×b2 ♗g7×b2?

"Shit move — why you play?" — Leko. With still a reasonable amount of time left (about two minutes) I irrationally jettisoned my original plan of 28...Nc3+ 29 Bxc3 Bxc3, despite the fact that this is clearly very good for Black.

But, like many of the the great mysteries that transcend through the ages, there is always some deeply submerged rational explanation underlying the particular phenomenon in question. When posed this poser, the great philosophical prowess of one Brenda O'Randle† first quietly meditated and then replied: "It's probably because you're a load of crap." †*(It's an anagram — Ed)*

29. ♔b1×b2 ♖h8–h4

I only now realised that 29...Nxf4 doesn't win a pawn, due to 30 Rxd8+ Rxd8 31 Qf3. Cheesed off with not having played 28...Nc3+ in the first place, I attempted to round up the f4 pawn under safer circumstances.

Having yielded approximate equality, I, in my characteristically turgid style, continued to play for victory. However, my emotions had got the better of me, for now my flag was hanging. To make matters worse, an unfeasibly large mass of chess-playing paedophiles had assembled behind me. In strict unison to Schubert's Fourth Symphony, they conspired to rhythmically press their bodies against mine, whilst also firmly blowing down my neck.

30. ♖d1–d4 ♖d8–h8?!

Unfortunately, I again declined to play another originally intended and obvious plan — 30...Rxf4. The reason was that I felt it didn't offer sufficient winning chances after 31 Qg3 *(31 Rc4+ Kb8 32 Bxd5? Rxc4 −+)* 31...e5 32 Rc4+ Kb8 33 Bxd5. But after 33...Rxd5! 34 Rxf4 *(34 Rxe5!? Rxe4 35 Rxd5 Qc7 =+)* 34...ef 35 Qxf4+ Qc7 36 Rd1 Ka7, Black's position is to be preferred. The bishop is more active than the knight in the middlegame, as well as possible endgames. Moreover, Black may combine an attack on g5 with one on c2 and c3.

31. ♗e4×d5!

The forthcoming exchange sacrifice is fairly forced in view of the positional threat of ...Rh2, but on playing my last move I didn't consider it particularly troublesome.

31. ... ♗b7×d5
32. ♖d4×d5!

?. The energy generated from the crowd's intense excitement at seeing a prepubescent boy make such a masculine move was duly transmitted to me by harder rubbing and heavier blowing. However, even these resources proved insufficient in stalling my melancholy demise.

32. ... e6×d5
33. ♕g2×d5

With my flag hanging even more than before, I contrived to make several random moves.

33. ... ♖h4×f4??

I later found, much to my chagrin, that 33...Qb7□ easily equalises. After 34 Qc5+ Qc7 35 Qxc7+ Kxc7 36 Re7+ Kd6 37 Rxf7 Rg8 38 a3 ba+ 39 Kxa3 Δ 40 f5, White successfully liquidates all of Black's pawns.

34. ♖e1–e7

Δ 35 Qa8+ Qb8 36 Qc6+ mating.

34. ... ♕b6–a6
35. ♕d5–d7+ ♔c8–b8
36. ♕d7–c7+ ♔b8–a8
37. ♕c7×f4 ♕a6–c6

And resigns: **1–0**.

GÅ VÆK, BAMSELINE!

by G. K. Burgess

□ **B. Elgaard (Køge)** Lyngby Op
■ **G. K. Burgess (Sydøstfyn)** (8) 1991
King's Indian Sämisch

1 c4

[Avoids the Budapest.]

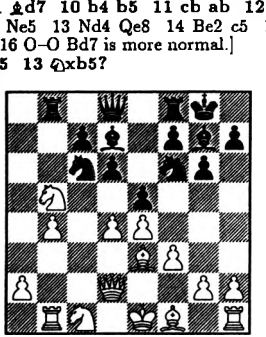
1...g6 2 ♘c3 ♗g7 3 d4 d6 4 e4 ♘f6 5 f3

[An annotated game in the bulletin varied here with 5 f4 "!! Decisive Advantage".]

5...0–0 6 ♗e3 ♘c6 7 ♘ge2 ♖b8 8 ♕d2 a6 9 ♖b1 ♗d7 10 b4 b5 11 cb ab 12 ♘c1

[12 d5 Ne5 13 Nd4 Qe8 14 Be2 c5 15 dc Bxc6 16 O–O Bd7 is more normal.]

12...e5 13 ♘xb5?



[No points. Is it clear to readers that this move destroys White's position? Apparently, he'd just forgotten about the dirty tricks with ...Nxe4. After the box move 13 d5, I wanted to make 13...Nd4 14 Nb3 c5 work, but more flaccid approaches (such as 13...Ne7 or 13...Nd4 14 Nb3 Nxb3) are adequate & preferable.]

13...ed

[Black is spoilt for choice, but this seems the clearest.]

14 ♗g5

[14 Nxd4 Nxd4 15 Bxd4 Nxe4 16 fe Qh4+ 17 Kd1 Ba4+ 18 Rb3 □ Bh6 19 Be3 Bxe3 20 Qxe3 Rxb4 isn't bags of fun for White, but the text is just miserable.]

14...h6 15 ♗xf6

[15 Bh4 and 15 Bxh6 are both well met by 15...Nxe4.]

15...♗xf6 16 ♘b3

[I felt quite uneasy here — it would be very embarrassing not to win such a position, but there are so many promising moves, it's hard to tell what's best. 16...Nxb4, 16...d5 and 16...Bh4+ all have their points, but the most incisive is perhaps 16...Bg5 17 f4 Qe7 (e.g. 18 Bd3 Nxb4, or 18...Bxf4 19 Qxf4 Nxb4).]

16...♘e5 17 ♘5xd4 c5 18 bc dc 19 f4 cd 20 fe ♗xe5

[White's position is clearly much better than it ought to have been. Fortunately, 21 Qxh6 looks dubious now: 21...Qf6 22 Bd3 Bd6.]

21 ♗d3 ♗b5

[Note the amusing line 21...Qh4+ 22 Qf2 Qh5 23 Be2 Qg5 24 O–O f5? 25 Nxd4! Rxb1 26 Rxb1 fe? 27 Bc4+ Kg7 28 Ne6+! Bxe6 29 Rb7+ and White wins!.]

22 0–0

[22 Bxb5? Qh4+.]

22...♕h4 23 h3

[23 g3? Bxg3 24 Bxb5 Rxb5 25 hg Qxg3+ 26 Qg2 Qe3+ 27 Qf2 Rg5+ 28 Kh2 Rh5+ 29 Kg1 Qh3 mit Damengewinn.]

23...♕g3 24 ♖f3

[He thought this was box, but 24 Bxb5 may be a better try.]

24...♕h2+ 25 ♔f2 ♗xd3 26 ♕xd3

[26 Rxd3 f5.]

26...♖fc8

[Plan.]

27 ♘d2

[This should collapse immediately, though I don't see a half–moon.]

27...♖xb1?

[27...Rc3 28 Rxb8+ Bxb8 29 Qf1 □ Bf4 etc.]

28 ♕xb1 ♖c3

[The intended 28...Bf4 looks pretty stupid after 29 Nf1.]

29 ♖xc3?

[29 Nf1 Rxf3+ 30 Kxf3 Qg1 Delta a king-side pawn push may still be winning for Black.]

29...dc 30 ♘f3

[30 Nf1 Bd4+ 31 Kf3 Qg1.]

30...♗g3+ 31 ♔f1 ♕h1+ 0—1

[He'd missed this. 32 Sg1 Lh2 33 Kf2 Dxg1+, when Kuvpa can probably explain how to win the resulting slutspil.]